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彼と人喰の日常2

Ordinary days with a Man-Eater.....

She may seem just like any pretty girl with black hair, but "Chiône" is actually an ancient demon.

Kareto
Hitokuino
Nichijo

彼と人喰いの日常②

■ Ordinary days with a Man-Eater

She may seem just like any pretty girl with black hair but "Orie" is actually an ancient demon...



嗤う。嗤う。

少女は嗤う。

何も知らぬ赤子のように。

けれど悪意を知るように。

無垢に嗤う。

その意味すらも分からずにただ嗤う。

夢見るように、

夢見たように、

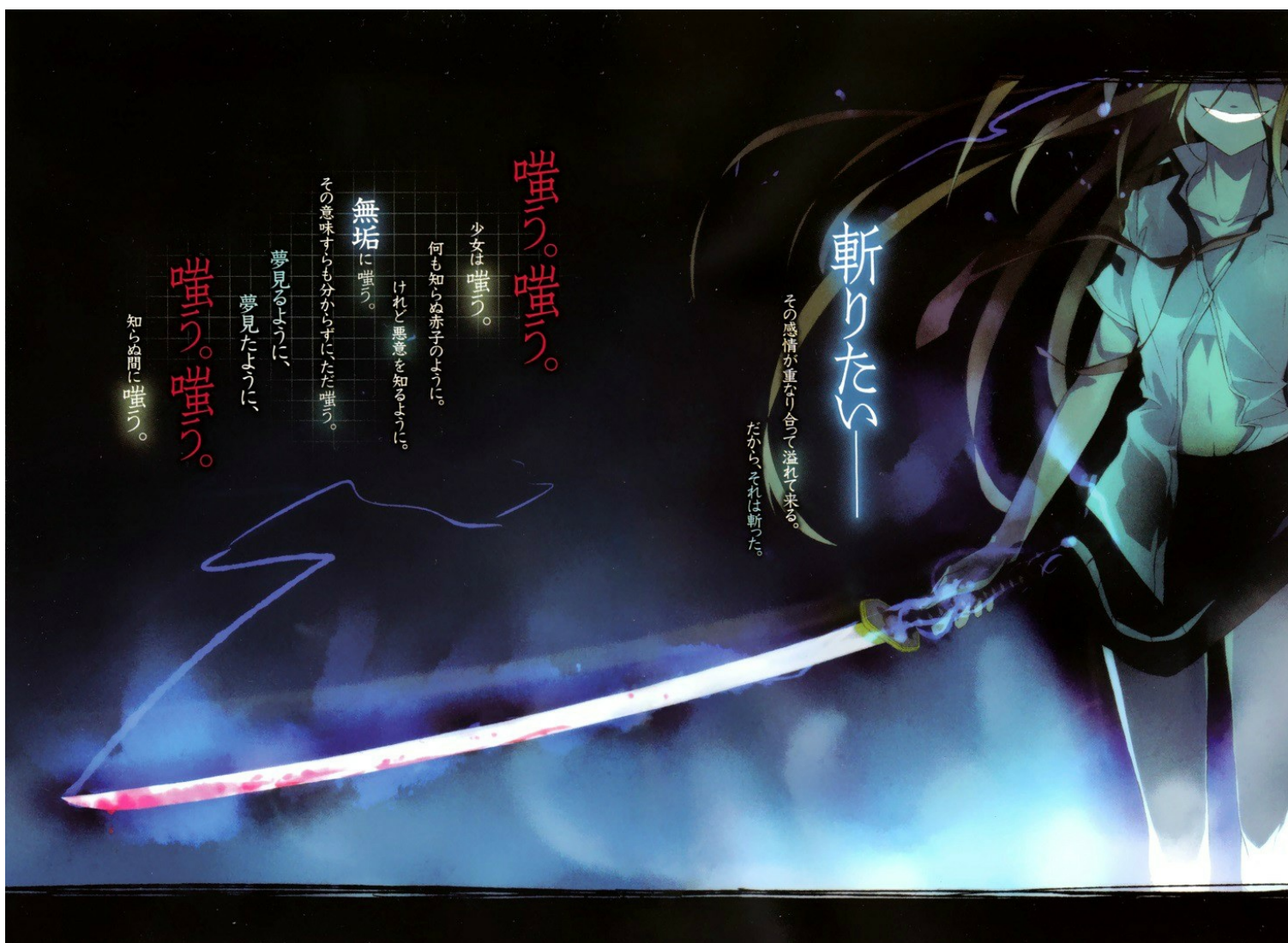
嗤う。嗤う。

知らぬ間に嗤う。

斬りたい――

その感情が重なり合って溢れて来る。

だから、それは斬った。





朝風呂
とらやつじやが
何か問題でも?

……何で裸なんだ?

「……ありません」





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Prologue: The Unknown Circumstances of Someone He Doesn't Know

It was walking slowly. Its hair was down to its waist, flowing casually, and moved through the town like a floating ghost. The bangs were grown long as if to conceal its face, and from the gap, it was looking around its surroundings like a beast with eyes that shined and wavered.

The surrounding was dimly lit, but the eyes showed precisely what it wanted.

Prey.

Prey.

Prey.

Prey.

Prey.

Everything walking around there was a prey for it in its viewpoint.

I want to cut.

That only emotion was overflowing.

But at the same time, it knew that it was also on the side of being the hunted.

Therefore, it knew it had to hide.

I want to cut.

For that reason it lurked.

In order to kill as much as possible, it let off the prey that were in front of its eyes.

But, those eyes stopped. One of the preys stopped moving.

I want to cut.

The emotions were overflowing intensely.

Those emotions layered on top of each other and came overflowing.

So, I slashed down.

Therefore, it cut.

Chuckled.

Chuckled.

The girl laughed.

Just like a baby who knows nothing.

But knows what is malicious.

Laughing innocently.

She simply laughed, even without understanding the meaning of it.

As if it was dreaming.

As if it dreamt.

Chuckling.

Chuckling.

Unwittingly laughing.

Chapter 1: His ordinary days with man-eater – childhood friend + dark clouds

The sunrise rose, unrelated to the will of humans.

“... ugh”

He woke up as he regained his consciousness. He didn't feel any drowsiness at all... after forming a contract with Kuroe, Tooya's body didn't require sleep. But he was still sleeping every day because it was part of his lifestyle.

“I have to wake Kuroe...”

I looked beside me to the roommate who had a same physical condition as mine but she also wanted to sleep every day. Sleeping late to advocate how good was sleeping was fine, but I hope she would try to wake up by her own.

“Eh?”

Kuroe was not here. Currently, no one was in the bed that made from stack of carpets.

“... Kuroe?”

There was no reply. This was unnatural if she couldn't be seen anywhere.

“I guess I'll wash my face for now.”

I already had gotten used to living with Kuroe. Facing panicky what be would Kuroe wanted... since I gave her an order to stay by my side, she must be somewhere around the house. Moreover, it was rare to see or maybe this was the first time I saw Kuroe already woken up before me... although her habit was just sleeping, there must be a times like this.

Maybe she just went to the toilet... wait, did that fellow go the toilet before?

“... ”

Tooya went out of his room without any deep thought while going to the washroom at first floor. The sound and smell of breakfast being cooked by his mom from the kitchen. *What would be the ingredients for today's miso soup...*

while Tooya was thinking such thing, as he reached his hand to the doorknob of the washroom... currently, the door was closed.

Gacha

The door opened, and Kuroe was there and totally naked in front of him.

“Good morning Master.”

She didn't try to hide her body at all; Kuroe said that while wiping her wet hair with a towel. Because of her calm attitude, Tooya didn't feel surprised anymore.

“Ah, morning.”

Tooya replied, and walks to the sink for his original purpose.



「朝風呂

とどうやうじゃが、
何か問題でも？」

「……何で裸なんだ？」

「……ありません」

“This’s strange!”

“That’s the same tsukkomi.”

Kuroe shows an admiring expression.

“That’s why it’s weird.”

“What?”

“Why are you fully naked...?”

“....?”

Kuroe tilts her head.

“Is there any problem bathing while naked?”

“Why are you suddenly bathing this early in the morning?”

Kuroe’s lips bent up slightly, she looked pleased.

“It feels great.”

Kuroe continued to speaking.

“It’s not like I woke up early for this. I was just sleeping at the time but I woke up, although it was good to continue to sleep but it was quite bit hard.”

“Waking up in this way will be troublesome for her so you went for a bath huh...”

If you were already awake, then wake up properly please.

“So cold.”

Kuroe pouts.

“By the way, master.”

“What...?”

“Although master keeps scolding me, the one that should be scolded is master isn’t it?”

“?! ”

“Generally in this kind of situation, master entered here without asking should be at fault right?”

“...”

Thinking about it in this kind of situation. He was supposed to be at fault here when opening the door. Tooya did already thought about this... even so.

“Then you should at least have some decent reaction right?”

“Umm.”

Kuroe tilts her head like she was thinking, then speaks.

“Kya—Ecchi—”

Silent.

Silent.

Silent.

“... anyway I have to go out. Just wear some clothes.”

“Okay.”

“The corpse of Miyagashi Kana-san was found. Kana-san seems like she was being cut by sharp objects. That wound should be the reason of her death. The police assumed the case of Sato Shoichi-san who was being cut also two days ago is related to this incident.”

“What a dangerous incident.”

Kuroe drank the miso soup happily but her gaze fell to the detailed reporting news. Kuroe was currently interested to watch news, world affairs, daylight drama and even some messy radio drama. But she didn't watch operas at all.

“It is better to be more aware?”

To understand it further, Tooya also too switched his gaze to the television. At the same time, he fully understood the contents flowed into his ears. In rough meanings, an elusive criminal doing crimes continuously. However, the reason people felt unusual about it because the weapon used was a Japanese sword. Using such weapon was a bit unusual nowadays.

It was dangerous event for sure... for normal persons. However, for those who were strong didn't even care, this was something like a joke for them.

“This is too much. I’m also a delicate maiden.”

“If you are delicate then all the maidens in the world that are weak may likely going to die.”

“You’re too exaggerating.”

It should be the correct knowledge.

While talking, Tooya took the remote and switched off the television.

“What are you doing?”

“Don’t watch such spooky things in the early in the morning.”

It’s too bloody for me.

“It’s just some normal news.”

Kuroe said while grinning.

“Would you feel bloody over these things, is because master did something guilty?

“Shut up.”

I just didn’t want to hear topics about people dying in the morning.

“I can’t even feel the taste of my breakfast already.”

“Wasn’t it delicious?”

“You should know what it means.”

Tooya stared at Kuroe, on the other hand he let the miso soup flow into his throat.

“Hmm, after news is today’s fortune divination.”

“I’m surprised to know that you believe in things like divination.”

“It’s not something stupid. Long ago, there was an acquaintance of mine who’s good at divination.”

“Don’t you feel like what you just said is on different level?”

What Kuroe really wanted to watch was just the divination show coming from the television.

“Until yesterday, you didn’t concern it at all.”

“I dreamt of my acquaintance’s stuff for a longtime.”

“You, did dreamt?”

“Of course.”

Tooya surprised.

“So are you not planning to switch back on the television?”

“What planning... it’s almost time for us to go.”

I looked at the clock and there’s 5 minutes left for us to go in the usual time.

“Okay.”

Kuroe also accepted it and started to clean up the dishes. Kuroe didn’t like to be late, she was even more serious in studying. It’d already been one month after that event; Tooya felt that Kuroe was just like a normal person... although she was still viscous as always.

“You are also a person that cannot see through...”

“What?”

“Nothing.”

Just like that, Tooya took the dishes from the sink. He heard the conversation between his mom and Kuroe at the back. They talked about today’s breakfast which was delicious and something liked that. Tooya’s mom gave a lot of caring to Kuroe, it was like they were having a daughter. Tooya’s mom felt very happy about this.

“Fuu...”

Today was just like usual. Going to school, nothing important happened then go back home. After this, Tooya didn’t need to handle Kuroe, he could get over the time on his own. Read some books, surfing the internet... however, his childhood friend who was always in there already didn’t exist anymore.

But that was what Tooya hoped, the life he hoped for.

That was why, no matter what kind of unreasonable twist will be going to

happen, there must be some peaceful ordinary days.



“I’m going out.”

The time to go school as always didn’t have any change at all. As always, we went out after wearing shoes. Then following the path from the front yard by walking out from the house... there’d be some usual scenes of ordinary days.

Before this, there was a girl holding a big gun crawling on the ground very near. The distance is about five meters only.

And the muzzle from the gun is pointing this way.

And sour gazes connected too.

It’s just like we’re being watched.

“...”

No matter what, a person couldn’t say a word when seeing some unnatural things. Even though it was Tooya who already had an experience of unnatural events, he couldn’t think of anything for a moment...What the hell is this.

“Eto...”

Tooya have finally regains his senses and started to interpret the scene right in front of his eyes. Firstly, the person was a female. The age should be around 20’s. She had short crimson hair like the burning of a setting sun, and cool black eyes. From her lying body, he could see that she was wearing military white camo attire.

Moreover, that woman seems to be holding something looked like a gun. A huge body gun that was very long, maybe because of the long gun, it was being supported by a tripod. The muzzle was big. It looked like those sniper rifles used to fight in war chariot in the movie... it was not something that can use in short distances.

What’s more... why is this thing pointing at me?

I can’t even think of an answer.

“Ano...”

He was peaking without sound, so naturally no reply could be heard.

“Who are you?”

“Ally of justice”

Although her voice was clear, the tone of her voice was rude.

“Justice’s, ally...?”

“Yes.”

There was not a slightest confuse in her answer.

“That is... what is this person doing here?”

“Can’t you see? I’m aiming this gun on you.”

So this is what currently happening right now.

“No. I want to know the reason.”

“For shooting.”

So that was it.

“...who?”

“You.”

If possible, I really wanted the other side to deny, but she affirmed it clearly.

“Please don’t dodge it. Or else the door behind you would be blown away... it would destroy various things.”

“To think that even not to dodge it, will surely penetrates me.”



That gun must not use on human no matter how you look at it.

“Tsk.”

The woman clicked her tongue a little... then she pulled the trigger without hesitation.

“Eh.”

Tooya didn't respond in time.

Tong

A boom sounded, but Tooya didn't feel pain, he didn't lose his conscious too.

“Eh...?”

In front of Tooya, there was an accustomed figure.

“So dangerous.”

I didn't know when Kuroe suddenly standing in front of me. She looked like she was in pain a little bit and shook her right hand. It seemed the bullet was blocked by Kuroe.

“Regardless of him, if the bullet flew into the house, his mother inside might get hurt for that.”

The woman heard this and laughed.

“I fired even knowing there was victim.”

“Ho.”

Kuroe look at the woman with interest.

“That means you still shoots knowing you'll miss?”

“...”

As reply, the woman stood up slowly. Tooya discovered something. There is something like knife on the woman's waist... that thing was full of violation compared to the military suit and the gun.

“You're a monster yet having a big mouth.”

Watching this way.

“It’s too much to say me as a monster.”

“Is it wrong to say monster as monster.”

The answer which was full of will... that meant she trusted it without doubt at all. Certainly she knew things between Kuroe and Tooya. Knowing that she was a monster and Tooya was her master. She came here to kill them. Ally of justice... this words made Tooya feel pain at the chest.

“Then, you really want to use that toy to kill a monster?”

Kuroe said the weapon used to fight during war chariot as a toy so easily... but the woman did not waver. It was better to say she showed an opposing smile.

“Although it is weapon but at least it has some effect, wasn’t it.”

“Well, there is some.”

Kuroe admitted frankly... and laughed with a mock.

“If that will accumulate to a large amount, it is not impossible to defeat me.”

“Then, I will show you.”

The moment the woman answered, a shot was heard. Kuroe’s head bent backward slightly. The woman held a handgun which was also a big muzzle on her hand, and shot out a bullet and hit Kuroe’s eyebrows.

“Then?”

Kuroe asked without any change on her expression—at the same time, the shot produced. Kuroe follows by bending her head backward.

“...so troublesome.”

Soft sound could be heard from Kuroe’s fingertips. At the same time, the woman who was holding a handgun suddenly became silent. No matter how she pulled the trigger, no bullet can be seen and just a soft sound from the metal could be heard.

“Finish already?”

Kuroe asked with a boring tone.

“Regrettably, yes.”

The woman nodded frankly.

“Because of a certain annoying guy swinging in front of me wasted my time... the equipment and preparation time was still not enough. Because living in deep residential street, I couldn't use the treasured big fellow.

Tooya thought that the sniper gun to fight war chariot was exaggerating enough.

“Fufu, then you plan to flee like that? You really know how to speak arrogantly.”

“It's impossible to end just like this.”

She denied while laugh with mocking. It was different to Kuroe which she was very violent and mystery. And then she reached the knife on her waist with her hand.

“Even though I don't like to use this... now I don't get bothered by it.”

“Ho.”

Kuroe's expression changed slightly, she threw her gaze to the knife. It looked like just a normal Japanese sword. There were some old scratches on the sword which shows how long the sword survived at this point.

“Seems like, you already found out.”

“It is already been in this world for so long, just like me.”

The woman held the handle of the sword tightly, slightly pulled out from the sheath and it looked like she was planning to swing it.”

“Wait.”

Because he felt the atmosphere wasn't right. Tooya stopped her.

“What do you want?”

The woman looked at him immediately.

“No... why do you want to kill us?”

“Exterminate monsters which are the enemy of humanity doesn't need any reason.”

That was right... Tooya didn't have any reason to retort.

"If you understand then hurry up and go die."

The voice didn't have any hesitation. The woman was just simply believe in herself and what she was going to do was right.

"So that's that. What should we do master?"

Kuroe turned her head. Tooya saw she was showing a pleasant expression. Obviously what that woman said was right. He knew that without anyone saying. The existence over there which was currently smiling pleasantly, was the most evil monster, it should cease to exist without doubt.

Still, things will be like before if she perished. Even though he aware that this was wrong. He and Kuroe still decided to revolt their common senses.

"If it's you, you can knock her down without killing her right?"

Even his own life was being targeted, he also wouldn't ask Kuroe to kill them. Because they themselves were the wrong ones without doubt, they who wanted to correct it were the right one. Tooya's mind was still not prepared to simply just kill a person.

"Understood."

Follow by this, Kuroe smiled a little.

"You said something arrogant huh."

The woman glared at Kuroe. If I had to say why, it was because Kuroe's words were the statement of the strong. She didn't try to kill the opponent who wanted to kill her; this kind of attitude could be interpret as being disdain naturally.

"I'll kill you."

The sound coming from the sword being unsheathed.

Dong

She moved to Kuroe with a big step. Tooya's eyes couldn't keep up with her figure at all. It was something like an instant teleport in front of Kuroe.

"Ho."

Kuroe with a face of admiring frowned slightly. Kuroe waved her right hand in front of her eye, catching the sword that already swings diagonally. The speed that couldn't be seeing by Tooya obviously different compared to Kuroe.

"Speed is good."

The slash was blocked by Kuroe perfectly... suddenly, Kuroe's arm completely disappear. The sword that held by Kuroe got its freedom.

"What?"

Tooya was surprised of what happened. Kuroe didn't really care, the woman from the side took this chance and slashed swiftly to Kuroe that had full of flaws.

Dong

Kuroe used her remaining left hand to fend the attack. How much strength did that left hand have... the sword reflected at a big angle. The woman forced to stand back. That was a very big flaw, but Kuroe didn't engage.

"A sword that brings trouble to the opponent."

While Kuroe murmuring her left palm disappeared.

"Ha, seems like the effect isn't bad."

The woman laughed while regaining her stance. The sword she was holding on her hand became black.

"Well."

Kuroe nods.

"However, this isn't enough."

Kuroe smiled, shook her both hands briefly. The hands that disappeared were back from the master's body.

"Then let's try."

The woman answered. With a smile, she slashed the sword again—

"This is the end."

This time, her hand stopped.

“Tsk.”

The woman clicked her tongue.

“An annoying fellow came.”

She lamented and hid her sword at the same time face to the master with the voice like water flowing.

“Inaba-san... I already requested that you don’t lay a hand on them.”

The master of the voice was Tanaka. From his messy breathing, anyone could see that he rushed here. He was a non-official inquisitor from the Order of the black magic, and tried to murder Tooya with a shot one month ago, until then he never saw him again.

“...Ha”

He made a deep sigh. Tanaka with a look of troubled looked around Tooya and that woman.

“We should observe them first, wasn’t it been decided?”

“I don’t remember accepted it.”

“Even you don’t remember it, but at least follow your superior’s order... seriously. You even brought that thing. How can you report it to the top?”

Tanaka then turned his gaze to the sword she was holding.

“Tsk.”

Although she clicked her tongue, her strength on holding the sword didn’t reduce.

“If you want to complain, leave it later. For now let’s have to settle that thing first.”

“Didn’t I tell you to stop.”

“If you can stop me then try it.”

The woman still laughed. In contrast, Tanaka’s sigh became deeper.

“Can’t be helped then.”

Tanaka took out his phone.

“...what are you trying to do?”

“Contact with the members deployed here, allow them to cancel the barrier you set to avoid people.”

“What!?”

The woman blurted out.

“If you don’t care what to happen to the citizens because of the commotion then do as you please. But make it sure it must not involve someone else’s life.”

“You...”

The woman stared at Tanaka, he just made a refreshing expression.

“Tsk.”

She clicked her tongue unwillingly.

“Go back then... just do what you like.”

After saying that, the woman put her sword back to sheath and walk away.

“...Haa”

And then Tanaka sighed again. I didn’t know why but that figure had an inexplicable intimacy, probably was just Tooya’s misconception.

“Anyway, apology for what happened.”

Tanaka bowed to Tooya.

“That is...that means that person.”

“An inquisitor like me.”

Tanaka’s answer proved half of the expectation. For now, only the Order of the black magic knew the affair of Tooya and Kuroe. Knowing this and targeting them, the chances of people from the Order of the black magic were relatively high.

“That person is Inaba Akane. Well, as you can see, a troublesome child... this incident was totally her self-assertion. To be honest, the Order of the black magic has no intention to fight with you guys for now.”

“Like this.”

His words make Tooya rest assured. Tooya was beware of the Order of the black magic but he really didn't want to go seriously. If the enemy wouldn't increase then naturally it was what he hoped.

"Huh... really?"

But Kuroe seemed like having a different view from them.

"If it's like this then the way of handle things in that wench is too naive. Ignoring the plan of the top and just her self-assertion, it's good to lead a force to capture her... that fellow clearly show her hostility to me."

It was like what Kuroe said. By the way, although the Order of the black magic said no intention to be their rival, but they didn't really want to show it.

Still Tanaka rushed to here on his own, letting that woman named Inaba Akane go back... instead of saying retreat, it was better to say he wanted to avoid trouble.

"Well, certainly."

Tanaka admitted frankly.

"For further explanation, can I take some of your time?"

"Alright."

I can only nod.

Now...is not a situation to reject.

Ten minutes later, three of them went to a small coffee shop with Tanaka's car. It was a suitable place for what Tanaka was going to say later.

"Then again, long time no see."

He picked the seat from the most side of the table. When the drinks came after he ordered, Tanaka said so.

"Actually, I really want to greet you two again, but I never thought it would be in this way."

"Ah, don't bother by it..."

By the way, that time Tanaka did say this. Nothing happened in this one

month after that event, Tooya didn't concern it... he may already forget it. Maybe his brain thought back about it subconsciously.

"Anyway, we want the explanation for the situation."

"Ahh, of course."

Tanaka nodded and started his explanation.

"First, I will declare my position—I have no intention to fight with you two at all. Like what I've said before, I don't think there is a way to defeat Kuroe-san. Even if we can defeat her, it's pretty sure we must have to sacrifice a lot."

"This is it."

Kuroe confirmed it without any humble meanings.

"Maybe it's not suitable to say this. But if you two want to disturb the country by making a massacre then it's a different story. The risks to exterminate you two and the advantages are not balanced at all for now. Then let it be also no problem... the top ones in the Order of the black magic already have same opinions."

"But that wench is different?"

"That is the troublesome one."

Tanaka made a troubled expression.

"She is the leader of the apartment that focuses on combat in the Order of the black magic; her personality is quite similar in you. Actually, I want to hide about you two, but it's hard to hide things in the same organization."

"Got found out huh."

"Yeah, then she'll go hunt you with just her self-assertion."

While saying, Tanaka sighed.

"She did not care at all no matter how much I persuaded... some people in the Order of the black magic even agreed with her avocation."

"Your organization is not really that united."

"Unfortunately, it is the truth."

Tanaka nodded with a bitter smile.

“Then the Order of the black magic is separated to crusade faction and observing faction for this business. Of course, majority is in the latter...as for those that fight from the beginning like her basically are in the former.”

“You mean although the observing faction is the major but also those using force are also against us?”

“Yes, if they want to use force then we also cannot stop them. For now they still like an adult and obey most of the orders. If they didn’t like the orders then they’ll just pretending of having a deaf ear.”

Tanaka was like talking matters about other people.

“Despite we have done the persuading... her opposition is still big, they didn’t listen to the reasons we have told.”

“Hmm, seems like she is someone with high popularity?”

“There are reasons for this...actually she is a miko despite in her look.”

“...Eh?”

He couldn’t be help but let out his voice. The looks of a miko in Tooya’s mind was incompatible with that woman at all.

“Although she ran away from home, she was the daughter of the successor of a big shrine... I believe she had received a lot of blessing as a miko, her intuition is just too good.”

“...so you want to say she wins by intuition?”

“That’s right.”

Tanaka nodded frankly.

“... is there anyone believed it?”

“Of course there is.”

Tanaka continued with a bitter smile.

“Maybe you can’t understand... our daily lives associate with supernatural. That’s why even we say it is just an intuition, but that requires accumulating

over time, the results from the miko training it's not something to be laugh at. Besides, she has many kinds of achievements; which it is enough to win the trust of others."

"...Is something like this?"

"It is just something like this...and her avocation of justice is easy to understand. Kill a man-eating monster is a matter of course. The existence of the order of the black magic is not official, their duties basically is to protect mankind... so people being influenced by justice is easy to understand."

Exterminate monster which was the enemy of mankind required what reason—that simple and direct sentence from her still floating up in Tooya's mind.

"Then, what is the conclusion?"

Kuroe looked at Tanaka.

"Follow what that wench said and kill me?"

"Not possible."

Tanaka shook his head vigorously.

"The conclusion in the order of the black magic is like what I said... we have no intention to interference in your business."

"But you guys have no power to inhibit that wench?"

"Yes, so you have to take the initiate."

"Ho."

Kuroe looked at Tanaka with full of interest.

"Just saying it straight... you're not planning to cooperate with us?"

Tanaka switched his gaze to Tooya immediately.

"What does that mean..."

"That means the order of the black magic lend us strength in the form of external collaborators."

Tooya could understand what he said, but he couldn't understand how it was related to what they are talking just now.

“It means showing that you guys have no harm. Show that you have no intention to antagonize the Order of the black magic. At the same time, intend to provide support. It is good to contain the action from the crusade faction. The power of Kuroe-san is beyond standard even to the Order of the black magic, it is worthy enough to be a guaranteed.”

“It means it’s not easy to make a move on them who are in the same organization?”

“That’s right. Although I cannot hope this will completely solve the problem, but at least it can deprive their righteousness.”

Because at least what Tooya were trying to do, wasn’t something that could be understood by others at all already.

“But I am a man-eating monster?”

Kuroe looked at Tanaka, her face showed an annoying smile.

“Of course we already thought of that.”

“Ho?”

“The main problem is what people did you try to eat... rather in this world, there are too many people that even you can eat them without matter. As long as you don’t eat people randomly then there is no problem.”

Tanaka turned his gaze back to Tooya.

“You intend to do this right?”

“...Yes.”

Of course Tooya didn’t think that way... but the feeling to prefer not to say from in his chest. What the problem was, probably wanted to get to the bottom... yet he didn’t know why he wasn’t willing to do so.

“Of course, this is not a compulsory.”

Tanaka said so after he noticed Tooya’s expression.

“This is just a request... I have to say why, and the option is in your hand. Even if you refused, we still have no intention to antagonize you.”

“But, this means... cannot stop that person—Inaba-san?”

“We will try hard, it is just we can’t ensure that.”

Tanaka say it with a smug which was rare to see, it was like he didn’t have confidence.

“Then I want to inquire.”

“Please do.”

“If we can’t stop the actions coming from that wench, what might happen next?”

“You guys and the Order of the black magic will have an all-faced war I guess.”

“Eh.”

Tooya looked at Tanaka like wanting to have an explanation.

“Why suddenly will...”

The subject of the talk went on.

“Certainly they’re belong to the minority, yet I had said before, basically they focused all the combat power which was precious to the Order of the black magic that we can’t lose them. That’s why if something were to happen, the Order of the black magic will fully support them to suppress the degree of damage.”

“Heh.”

Kuroe let out a sneer.

“That means if it’s not an ally then it is our enemy. No need to hit around the bush.”

“That is my discourtesy.”

Tanaka bowed a little, then looked back to Tooya.

“The situation is like what was just said. But the option is still in your hand. You can choose to fight us and obtain victory.”

Moreover in that kind of situation, Tooya had a higher chance of winning.

However Tanaka hadn’t finished his talk.

“But in that kind of situation, even you won your recent lifestyle will probably

collapse. With Kuroe-san as the opponent, isn't the time for us to select the means already... your important family and Rikka-san will probably being involved."

Tooya glared at Tanaka reflectively. Even so Tanaka did not show a timid look.

"This is just a hypothesis. But if things really develop to that extent then who knows."

"What an easy-to-understand threat."

"Yes, exactly."

Tanaka admitted frankly.

"Like what I said we have no intention to antagonize you two... to avoid such a thing, no matter threatening or any other way we also won't give up."

"So it is."

Kuroe nodded her head admirably, and then looked at Tooya.

"Then master, what are you going to do?"

"..."

He had the need to think carefully regarding this. Actually there was none. If I refused, there was a chance it would trigger a war, a war can be avoided if complied. Such an obvious prompt, Tooya had no reason to refuse.

Tooya didn't think of using Kuroe to achieve any ambition. He just wanted to protect his childhood friend and the peaceful lifestyle around him. Other than that, he did not intend to use Kuroe's power, the time past in an instant when he was thinking.

"I understand."

And so, Tooya agreed.

"I am very grateful."

Tanaka let out a deep breath that had been hold for long and bowed deeply.

"The formal procedures will do it later, I have to inform to the top first since I got your consent. After all, it's better to be faster."

After saying this Tanaka stood up quickly.

“Before the things have been deal with, please take any action as you want.”

Then he left here in a hurry.

“What does he meant take any action as you want...”

Tooya looked at the figure that gradually disappears.

“What are we going to do next?”

Confirming the time, it wasn't even ten yet.

“...we'll just go back to school for now.”

The class was currently in the third period. Gazes of curiosity cast into Tooya, but no matter what they thought, it wouldn't change the assessment on him. Instead, Kuroe might have some effect, but she would just cover it perfectly anyway... it felt like there will be addition of troublesome rumors.

“...Haa.”

Tooya sighed. His head felt heavy too. Even though the fourth study period ended, he didn't have strength to stand up at all during recess. A lot of things happened in just a short amount of time in the early morning. A mysterious woman pointed a gun at him and fighting with Kuroe... then the matter about Tanaka wanting him to be collaborator to assist the Order of the black magic.

“*Master.*”

Kuroe's voice can be heard in the mind suddenly.

“*Today I have to eat lunch with our classmates.*”

It's fine to tell me directly why have to... thinking so, Tooya noticed some gazes focused at here and few things. Usually, Kuroe walked out the classroom with Tooya. It was very rare to see Kuroe left Tooya in the classroom alone... moreover; the only person who would usually looking at here already changed.

“ ... ”

Tooya stood up silently and looked over there. Rikka was joking happily to her friends. About she was staring at Tooya, didn't exist anymore. Rikka already forgot about Tooya, even his existence also she wasn't aware. The people in the

class didn't feel strange about this thanks to the spell from Kuroe.

Therefore Rikka can happily enjoy her school life now... because what caused Rikka to have some problem was already gone. All had been handled by Tooya.

"...That's great."

Tooya mumbled and turned his sight away, took out his lunchbox from the bag and walked out of the classroom.

"Really?"

The voice could be heard again the moment he walked out the classroom... seemed like it was prank time again.

"Yeah yeah."

But Tooya answered without hesitation. There was no need to hesitate. This was the result that Tooya hoped for... then he just followed this hope and realized it.

Compared to the lonely Tooya, Rikka is currently laughing with her friends. Abandonning everything, this was what Tooya'd hoped for her too.

"Wasn't there is still something left down."

A delighted voice come from behind.

"... You're not going to eat lunch with our classmates?"

"Forget it."

He answered right away.

"It's better to accompany my master who was a bit lonely."

With a mischievous smile.

"...what an unnecessary concern."

"You can't say it like that."

Kuroe held Tooya's hand.

"Wasn't we are in engagement?"

Kuroe's lip bent slightly.

“...Haa.”

Tooya could only sigh.

“How long does this setting have to go on...”

“This is just a setting for master?”

“Then it becomes forever...”

Tooya mumbled like he gave up and walked out the classroom.

Tong

Someone hit him the back unintentionally.

“Sorry!”

Tooya turned to the direction of that voice. Rikka was standing over there... but her sight didn't focused on Tooya at all. Seems like she really wanted to go to the corridor. Because she couldn't acknowledge the existence of Tooya and hit him. Although she apologized subconsciously, but she would immediately forget everything. Tooya knew that she couldn't remember this.

“Master.”

Kuroe pulled Tooya to a side. Rikka didn't know why she stopped here and tilted her head and walked away after regained senses. If Kuroe didn't pull Tooya away, Rikka would surely hit him again.

“Seems like the slightly alter of the effect from the spell is better.”

Kuroe looked at Rikka and said so.



“Things like this will happen if your existence cannot be aware completely. If I change it to aware the master as another person...”

“No, no need.”

Tooya shook his head

“This is fine.”

This was a complete farewell.

Because that was what Tooya could hope for.



“But isn’t it great?”

“... what?”

After that they two went to the roof as usual. Kuroe asked Tooya while opening her lunchbox. A roof with wide area with only they two here, was very quiet.

“So easily to give assistance isn’t?”

“It’s not that simple.”

It just there was no other option.

“Wasn’t there is another way other than direct confrontation?”

“For example?”

“If I want to fully maintain the current status, it is possible to hide without being found out by them.”

“... if I have to stay away from Rikka then it is not considered as an option.”

“Looks reluctant.”

“Shut up.”

If not, then I had said goodbye to you already.

“There is other method like assassination or something like that.”

“ ... ”

“Certainly it is a pain to fight with the Order of the black magic directly...but if the main members are killed then there is no problem. If they want to make a move then we just make them disappear completely.”

“No way.”

He denied immediately without even thinking about what she said.

“Cannot?”

“Of course.”

Although Tooya said so.

“But why?”

Kuroe asked.

“Why...”

“Are you opposed to killing them?”

Kuroe said.

“Wasn’t you don’t care the price of the pact and decided on your own to kill that man... but why you still can’t decide to kill those people?”

Kuroe stared at Tooya, her lip currently didn’t bend... but it was like Kuroe to not say clearly when killing someone.

“...Rikka’s father is different from those people.”

“Eh?”

“I don’t hate those people.”

That reason was more than enough. Since he deserved it for being targeted.

“Because they’re the right ones so we can’t kill them?”

“Yeah yeah.”

They were the right one, Tooya knew that without anyone saying.

“Well, if master wants to think it that way then never mind.”

Kuroe smiled and shrugged.

“Sounds like there is another meaning in it.”

“Don’t mind about it.”

Kuroe had no intention to continue this topic.

“... by the way are you fine with it?”

“What?”

“Collaborate with the Order of the black magic.”

Although they said collaboration, what Tooya could do was really limited, he surely had to rely on Kuroe’s power.

“Master is really kind.”

With a mischievous smile.

“What do you mean.”

“Since I am master’s servant so I’ll do what you say.”

Kuroe with a smile like a cat got near to Tooya’s face.

“If you use me like a woman then I will be very happy... did you got charmed?”

“... it will be strange if I do.”

“Don’t you dare say that you forget that passionate kiss?”

“... it is a dark history that I’m trying to forget.”

“Master is still bad as usual.”

Kuroe who said that smile cheerfully and moved away from Tooya’s face.

“Well to be honest, I was doing something like this before being sealed, so I don’t feel like opposing it.”

“Speaking that you served an exorcist before huh.”

He had heard before so there was still some memories in him.

“I worked as a familiar of the exorcist under the emperor. Main duty was to exterminate monsters and captured criminal magicians.”

“...”

“What does that expression mean.”

Tooya did not say anything, he was just showing his tired look.

“No, it’s just merely facing reality...”

Tooya sighed.

“Because thinking I would be requested by the Order of the black magic to do something like that, my sight darkens.”

“Something like that?”

Seemed like Tooya’s feeling did not convey to Kuroe.

“No, you see I am just a normal high school student in a month ago.”

“Even though you’re normal but I don’t know how many people would agree.”

“I don’t want this kind of tsukkomi.”

Tooya pull the topic back to the talk.

“In short, supernatural existence like you isn’t related to me in general speaking.”

“Well, it is.”

“That is to exterminate monsters or capture magicians...to be honest I also wanted to ask what are those.”

That was totally not something a normal high school student should do. Certainly, he was already outside the range of normal, even though he understand but Tooya still hadn’t regulated his feeling to the state of affair... that was why Tooya still was hoping to have a normal ending.

“But the one who made the option is master?”

“I know.”

For the sake of protecting the recent so it couldn’t be helped.

“What a contradiction.”

“?”

“Wasn’t it? Master who wants to have a normal and peaceful daily life have to face the trouble to protect it...once you have get used to it you can say it is daily life, but that kind of daily life cannot be peaceful?”

“...”

That meant no matter which option, it wouldn’t come a peaceful daily life.

“Well, just be at ease.”

Kuroe’s voice became gentle suddenly.

“What do you mean.”

“What I did in the past is something rare to happen lately. At least things like exterminating monsters are impossible.”

“Why do you say so.”

“You’ve already forgotten what I’ve said to you? The monsters in this country had been wiped out in the past.”

“Certainly, there is something similar like this.”

“So in this world, there are no monsters already...”

“Is there any basis for this?”

Although Kuroe said before that the emperor issued annihilating order against monsters.

“The one standing here is the litigant of that era? Actually I and the exorcist master had exterminated a lot of monsters.”

“But...”

Isn’t the litigant is the problem.

“What?”

“No, because it’s just here.”

Monster that did not die out.

“I am a special case.”

“How can you affirm there is no other special cases.”

That was a doubt for sure.

“Umm.”

It was like she never thought of this, Kuroe use her hand to support her lower jaw and started thinking.

Indeed there was this possibility...if there really was, they had to think about

their intention on us.

“Intention?”

Kuroe didn't hear what Tooya asked and continue thinking. Looked like her thought had enter the subtle point.

“Say, what is happening right now...”

“... well, forget it.”

Agreed by her own.

“No that's why I said.”

Listen to what other said please.



“... Why are you here.”

Tanaka went back to his room in the Order of the black magic, there he saw the figure of Akane wearing casually in his room.

“Because the air conditioner in here is more comfortable.”

“It's the same in the disposition.”

“Don't mind the details. We are also the people of the order of the black magic...besides why you only have your own room and I have to stay with a group of people full of sweat smell.”

Akane shows a dissatisfied look.

“Because what I handle is mostly confidential information.”

Tanaka sighed and stared at Akane.

“They specifically made this room to prevent the leakage of important information.”

“Doing it so obvious will cause opposite effect?”

“If you have this decent view then don't enter here without permission.”

“Because we are partners so no problem.”

“... if you say so then please collaborate with me.”

Tanaka sighed deeply.

“Why must I collaborate with the fellow who takes normal people as hostages?”

Akane looked at Tanaka like looking at an idiot. Although he wanted to ask ‘wasn’t we are partners’ but Tanaka swallowed the words back before he said.

“... if you have obeyed orders nicely then I won’t have to do that.”

“If the order is to dispose the monster then I will obey.”

“If you seriously fight with that thing, I wonder how many people will die?”

“... zero, is not impossible I guess.”

Akane answered with sullen.

“Even if we can win, the Order of the black magic will probably destructed. If it is that then it’s better to sacrifice one person every month silently.”

“Comply with that thing then the people sacrificed will have no limit?”

“As long as it’s not too much then no problem.”

“That will consider as justice?”

Akane glared at Tanaka... Tanaka just cleverly coped that cold glare.

“The Order of the black magic is not a justice organization.”

“ ... ”

“Our code of conduct is to protect more citizens. Indeed that if the Order of the black magic fight with full might probably will obtain a miraculous victory... then what to do after that? The organization that has been half-destructed can still operate like now? I can affirm the sacrifice in that time will be more than just let them be like now.”

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue

“You too, try a little to change to a more realistic way of thinking.”

“Shut up idiot. Go die.”

Akane was throwing a tantrum.

“...Haa.”

Tanaka sighed deeply again.

Chapter 2: His day with man-eater + Order of Black Magic

“Ah, hello.”

By the time Tanaka contacted Tooya, three days had already been past. Although Tooya didn't intended to tell them but they seemed to know his phone number. Saying that they wanted to talk something after school, Tanaka was currently sitting at the coffee shop waiting for those two... however.

“Ne, why is that wench here too?”

“Don't look over here as you please, you monster.”

There was another person present here other than Tanaka, the woman who called Inaba Akane. Although it looked like she didn't bring any weapon, her hostility towards them was released without any means of hiding it.

“That is...”

“What is happening in here...”

Tooya inquired Tanaka who sit beside Akane with his eyes. The counterpart only replied with a bitter smile.

“Although I stopped her... but she didn't listen at all.”

“Please just stop her somehow... ”

“Unfortunately, I have no chance winning against her at all in terms of physical strength.”

There was no meaning even if you just simply stated it.

“Well, the condition is the type of weapon she brings makes her unable to act recklessly... and she also accepted the condition like an adult.”

“But the one who accepted the condition is likely going to fight with Kuroe anytime.”

Akane had come back to her seat at last with an unsatisfied look. Both of her

hands were holding the side of the table tightly, as if she was going to crush the table. Kuroe who was looking at this situation showed a very happy expression... which angered Akane further.

“Anyway, let’s sit down first?”

“Right.”

Maybe standing here make them felt unpleasant. She might calm down a little if we talked with appropriate posture.

“Kuroe.”

“Yes.”

Kuroe put away her refreshing attitude and sit down beside Tooya. Then Akane already gave up and reduced her strength applied on the table... Tooya who saw that released a deep sigh.

“Then hurry up and enter the topic. Regarding the matters of you providing collaboration to us, the top had given the consent. As long as you sign on this contract, you two will become the external collaboration of the Order of the black magic, that means you’re no longer the existence that we need to get rid of.”

“Tsk.”

Tooya heard a very loud clicking sound... but he just ignored it.

“The content of the contract more or less is about don’t take any action as you want. Please be sure to comply at this point. Then always report to the order of the black magic about your whereabouts... this includes in the point that I said before. For example, please tell us beforehand if you want to go on a trip.”

“I don’t mind about that... but specifically what do we need to do as collaboration?”

Although they hoped us to provide collaboration, but we didn’t know the specific content of it... even though I heard what Kuroe did in the past, but as she said, the recent and the past were different where there was no restriction.

However from the results , this meant Tooya had no freedom to make

choices, though that didn't mean he must accept it anyhow.

"Well, there are many things, if concludes it in a word then... investigating the weird phenomenal around the world and handle it."

"Weird phenomenal?"

"In other words, it is something that cannot be solved by general knowledge."

It also could be say as supernatural things.

"It includes exterminate evil spirits that can harm mankind, capturing evil magicians and so. It's not like that all must be required to fight, if you want to handle it then the strength at that level is certainly a must."

After a pause, Tanaka continued.

"If it's about strength then I don't think you have to worry."

Then he looked at Kuroe.

"Of course."

Kuroe looked back at him with a mocking smile.

"You two will provide help in the dependent form according to different kinds of situation. If there are numbers of situations, then you are fine to pick which you want to. It doesn't matter even if you refuse all of them."

"Doesn't matter even if I refuse all of them?"

For Tooya this was quite unexpected.

"Yes."

Tanaka nodded.

"Two of you are just external collaborator and not the official staffs in the order of the black magic. Naturally, you have the freedom to make choices. This is not because you two are special case, it is the common matters among the external collaborators."

"So it's like this huh."

"The inside of the order of the black magic are currently lacking in manpower at the slow pace. Although there are many people with special ability in this

world... but they hated of being restricted by the organization. That's why we recruit collaborators in this form."

That meant the internal affairs in the order of the black magic weren't that so-called stable. Compared to that, work efficiency was more important.

"That said, if they continuously refuse to provide assistance without reasons then there no meaning of collaboration that is being shown. They have no right to become external collaborator anymore in this situation. Therefore it is better to provide assistance appropriately."

The explanation from Tanaka went deep into Tooya's heart. In another meaning it was just accept and provide assistance once in a while, basically there was no need to accept more than that.

『Is it really just that simple? 』

Kuroe said the annoying thing through telepathy... Tooya hoped that things can be this easy.

"However it is better to accept the request given at first. This is to show you to follow the contract and provide collaboration."

"... Understood."

Tooya was forced to nod.

『See. 』

The look of Kuroe's mocking smile appeared in mind. 『Shut up.』

"Then, the request has been decided?"

"That's right."

Tanaka nodded immediately... Tooya was hoped that they still couldn't decide and it was delayed to more two days.

"We hope you two can search for the demon sword."

"... Demon sword."

Again with those words that would make people mad in an instant.

"You mean... demon sword?"

“Yes, it’s the thing what you’re thinking about.”

If someone got that thing it would cause their minds to become weird and wanted to slash people—that kind of stuff.

“... it really have something like this?”

“There is.”

Tanaka’s expression changed when he answered.

“Did you know the incident of the elusive criminal happened two days ago?”

“... can consider it as yes.”

Although it was just at the extent of hearing from what Kuroe saw in the news partly.

“That is, the work of the demon sword.”

“... it’s not committed by a normal criminal?”

“Unfortunately it’s not.”

Tanaka said so plainly, denying the hope of reality gently.

“... because the scene got the remains of demon energy or something like that?”

“Well, strictly speaking it’s not so, but it’s fine to think of it as that kind of thing.”

“.....”

His head hurt. Kamisaki Tooya’s common sense had left to a distant place recently.

“Well, about the detailed information of the demon sword please look over the materials sent to your house.”

“... understood.”

Although he didn’t agreed right away but about the matters of demon sword just threw it to the back first.

“Although the specific content is to look for the demon sword, it doesn’t mean you two have to search for the criminal just like this. After all, you will

feel troubled if you were asked to search one by one right?”

“Well, that is right.”

Tooya had no experience and skills at all.

“And so few suspects had been listed in here... I want you two to investigate each one of them. Confirming if that person owns the demon sword, if they did them retrieve it. This is the detail of this request.”

“If they didn’t own it?”

“Then the request is done the moment you confirmed. We will not demand you to continue the investigation on the other suspects.”

“So this is it huh.”

Tooya was stunned. Still thinking what happened to say words like demon sword all of a sudden, the request was not something difficult. Although there was a bit uneasy about retrieving the demon sword under the situation of the other people held it... but there would have a way if Kuroe was there too.

“This is what’s about in rough. More details will be sent in materials ,please look over the parts about the request... well, like I said this is the first request so it’s better to accept it if possible.”

For this reason so you could pick an easier suspect, Tanaka continued.

“And so, the matter of the request comes to an end, back to the topic about the contract. There is no meaning to come over here if you don’t sign on it.”

“That’s right.”

When Tooya nodded his head... something happened.

“Aiya.”

The coffee spilled on the table along with a voice sounded like intentionally. The contract on the table became black in color because of this.

“It’s on purpose.”

Akane said so without any meaning to cover it.

“... we had prepared a few backups for the contract just in case.”

“Tsk.”

As expected of Tanaka, he did not waver at all. He called the staff to clean the table and put the new contract on it afterward.

“Then, I sign now.”

“Ah, please wait for a moment.”

Tooya’s hand that was holding the pen was stopped by Tanaka.

“I forgot to explain one more important thing.”

“What is it?”

“About the offering for Kuroe-san.”

This sentence pierced into Tooya’s hear unexpectedly.

“It is necessary for Kuroe-san to eat a human every month right?”

“... yes.”

It was definitely a lie for Tanaka to forget such an important thing. He was just waiting for an unexpected timing to create the deepest impression no matter how you thought about it.

“Since that is something decided the moment we agreed the collaboration, it’s not like we want to make any remarks now.”

“.....”

“It’s just that if we are the one to choose who to become sacrifice then no trouble will be brought.”

It was right to do so. We were still under supervision in this moment, it was not something to be justified if we killed anyone as we want to.

“The contract will be abolished if you break this condition. Because the terrifying person beside here is waiting for that moment... so please pay attention about this point.”

“Understood.”

Having a fight with that person was what Tooya wanted to avoid as much he could. Therefore he nodded frankly— however, something didn’t feel right.

Was it really fine at this way, that kind of doubt cannot be removed and left in his heart.

“Then please sign on the contract.”

“Okay.”

But Tooya didn't go into seriously about the reasons and signed on the contract.



“Oi, wait for a moment.”

The conversation ended, Tooya and Kuroe retained by Akane's voice just when they were trying to get up. But they still hadn't recovered from the waver — She wasn't like going to speak calmly no matter how you look.

“Inaba-san.”

“Shut up Tanaka. I am not thinking of causing trouble right now so don't worry... it's just I have something I wanted to say.”

“... understood.”

Although Tanaka did not completely trust what she said but he didn't say anything.

“Something you want to say, heh.”

Kuroe looked at Akane amusingly.

“At first I was thinking why you came here just to show you're a good adult, so what is your purpose.”

“Keep your mouth shut too.”

“Hoo.”

Kuroe showed a surprised look.

“I want to talk to that brat over there.”

She looked at Tooya while said so... it was supposed to be leering.

“... what?”

Tooya asked even though he got scared by her gaze.

“Don’t misunderstand.”

And this was the answer he got.

“Misunderstand?”

“Certainly you became the collaborator of the order of the black magic... well, that way I can no longer take action on you. Because the words from some bastard, I will not make a move as long you two are collaborators. I will assure about the concerning departments too.”

“Fuu, it’s a promise about not making a move on us?”

“Yeah yeah.”

Akane nodded impatiently.

“But, don’t even think I will forgive you two.”

That gaze captured Tooya in a straight way.

“Even if you are the collaborators of the order of the black magic or completed what kind of request, it’s just to that kind of extent only... that’s why it’s impossible to forgive what you two have done.”

“.....”

“That is the place you don’t misunderstand about. Even now, you are still the worst.”

“.....”

Tooya didn’t refute—but he didn’t admit it neither. He just moved his gaze away, not intended to turn his head back and facing Akane’s dazzling gaze at all.

“Hmm, feels like she had become our ally based on her speech.”

Kuroe stared at Tooya and showed a delighted smile.

“I have no intention to be your ally... it’s just I won’t make a move on you two.”

“So scary... if the current position collapsed then you will attack us immediately I guess.”

Kuroe shrugged.

“Of course.”

An immediate answer.

“If there is any strange move, I will kill you two instantly.”

“Can you do it?”

“It’s not the matter of can or not... it’s what I must do.”

“That is quite interesting.”

A smile can be seen between Kuroe’s lips.

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue.

“That is all I want to say.”

Seemed like there was nothing to say anymore, Akane faced the two with her back.

“Haizz, she will just make people worried.”

Tanaka said so with a bitter smile.

“She has finished her sentences, then this time it ends here.”

“Then we too go back, ne.”

“... yeah yeah.”

Tooya nodded lightly to greet them and turned around.

When they were walking out the shop, Tooya turned his head back, yet Akane was still facing them with her back.



“And so, a happy working life is going to begin.”

“... what’s so good to be happy about.”

Tooya’s body strength vanished all of a sudden when they went back home. It was quite consuming of mental strength when talking about something that detached from common sense. Things that didn’t apply on common sense was

like causing the world that he believed until now was falling apart. At the same time those considered as jokes until now had been replaced as reality. Thus, mental fatigue had been produced.

“If you want me to say something, things have been this far until now.”

Kuroe looked at Tooya, like looking at something weird.

“What kind of existence I am, wasn’t master knew it clearly already?”

“Well, even if you said so.”

Indeed the very existence of Kuroe was already a significance of non-common sense. The impact he received during the first meet, until now Tooya still hadn’t forgot.

But no matter Kuroe had what kind of sense of being, she was still just an individual. For Tooya, accepting the existence of an individual called Kuroe didn’t mean he could accept other circumstances either. Understanding all of it just by knowing one or what, was not something that can simply imagine by hearing it casually.

“That means because I am close to you so it’s more easily to be accepted?”

“No one has ever said that.”

Don’t explain it in a way that was favorable to you incidentally.

“Master is a tsundere as always ne.”

“At least say that to a person who had gone dere once before.”

Tooya did not intend to be dere to Kuroe at all.

“Well, just leave it be... that was also an embody of your dere towards me.”

“I just said I will not go dere.”

“You can say that only now ne.”

Kuroe showed a charming smile.

“My charm as a woman will mesmerize master in no time.”

“Despite I think it’s better to not always keep that thing on your mouth at first.”

Even though Kuroe looked very impressive, Tooya was still very calm over here.

“Well, that thing aside... isn't it great?”

“What?”

“About the contract.”

Kuroe answered.

“... because there were no other choices to made?”

“This is because master's selection was too narrow?”

It wasn't wrong to say so... but this was because Tooya had nothing much can choose.

“That was fine enough.”

At least the direct confrontation can be avoided.

“Uhh, it may be not bad for master.”

Kuroe seems like she looked through everything.

“What do you mean.”

“This way master doesn't need to choose anymore.”

“!?”

“What's with that, don't you hear many times already... master also understands right?”

Her tone didn't have any meaning of blame... it was more than enough for Tooya to recognize the facts. Things that didn't went into seriously at that time had shown its true colors clearly.

Tanaka had said, human that must be eaten by Kuroe had to be chosen by them.

That meant, Tooya didn't need to choose which human Kuroe would eat anymore.

“Isn't it worth to be glad about for master?”

Having to select human for sacrifice... Tooya could escape from this responsibility already.

“.....”

If he really had to say his mood now, indeed it would be like what Kuroe said. Tooya relaxed because he can finally escape from that heavy burden. There was no need to bear it anymore, the responsibility to take away a human's life. Tooya could throw away the iniquity he made and walk a different path.

But at the same time, was it alright to be that way, this thought was still lingering in him. This was because that was not a path he chose by his own anymore... that was just decided by others and a way to escape only.

“I am...”

The words he wanted to continue, did not come up.

Tooya was confused, what should be the correct one.



Even as he agonized he also couldn't get the answer. And so, Tooya welcomed the second day. He didn't need to go to school because it's Saturday. Tooya didn't know whether it was good for him or not. Maybe his mood would be better if he went to school and study... but if there was no need to escape anymore, then there wasn't any meaning of going school to study.

“Time to go out?”

“Yeah yeah.”

In short, he couldn't settle anything by staying in his own room... although he also couldn't answer what the point of going out was. But without a doubt, he would be more depressed if he just stayed inside the room.

“I will just stay in the house. I have to digest the radio drama that had been recorded ne.”

“No one asked you to come with me.”

It was better if she didn't come. Just stay that way until he came back. Sounds like a joke that she could still stick to the drama under this kind of atmosphere...

Tooya thought that it would be better if she could be more aware of the surrounding... but it was just futile.

“I go out now.”

“Uhh.”

Tooya went out the house with the arguing voice of the couple in the television from his back.

“... Fuu.”

Although he wanted to have a walk outside the house, but he didn't set a specific destination. Not wanting to hold a book on his hands even if he went to a library, went to the arcade after a long time also wouldn't bring out his interest in games. If wanting to take out stress then go to a hitting center will be perfect... but probably that way he also couldn't change his mood.

At last Tooya was just sit on a bench in a small park and stared at the sky. The recreational facilities over here were rusted, so this park had an air of loneliness in the daylight. That way it couldn't be more suitable to be a place for a person to spend his day silently over here... well, nothing can be done other than being in a dazing here that was.

“What should I do now... I don't really know.”

Having to reply the question Kuroe asked yesterday, about the picking of a person for Kuroe to eat... it was fine to just leave it to the order of the black magic. He could accept it in terms of feeling, but at the same time he also got a doubt about was it really fine to be this way.

However, in the end there was no meaning no matter how he kept thinking. Because the situation didn't change. Even if he said he wanted to pick who to kill, it was impossible to be permitted.

“... Haa.”

Tooya sighed. Without any reason, Tooya just wanted to leave and stood up... probably, if he kept staring at the sky then what was going to happen wouldn't happen. In this way, the other side wouldn't noticed Tooya who was sitting over there and just walked over to him at the side.

Yet Tooya stood up... and so, both gazes connected.

“Ah.”

“An?”

Inaba Akane, that person was right there.

“That is...”

When he wanted to say something... Akane stretched her hand to her waist.

“Tsk.”

But she clicked her tongue immediately.

“... don't say you want to take out your gun?”

“You should be grateful that I am on break.”

Seemed like she didn't deny it.

“On break, heh...?”

“That's right, you know just by looking right?”

“... I guess so.”

Certainly the Akane now wasn't wearing the camo suit like what he saw before... what she was wearing was a cute looking dress. The figure of his childhood friend playing happily at the playground floated on Tooya's mind at that moment... but no matter what the two of them couldn't overlap because the difference in age was too big.

“What's with that gaze.”

Akane stared at Tooya.

“No, it's just I feel surprised... ”

“It is my freedom to wear what I want during my free time.”

“... right.”

He nodded.

“I am sure you are thinking it's not suitable to me or something like that.”

“That... I don't mean it that way?”

“Look at me and say.”



Even if she said so, he was the one being stared so he just couldn't do it. Although Tooya thought the straightforward style of the dress suited her... and she was a beauty too, so the style suited her very well.

"Very suitable... oh?"

"I said look at me and say. And also why are you using an interrogative sentence."

"....."

Tooya looked at her directly. It was still an impatient face like always.

"I think it's pretty, no matter the cute looking dress or the camo suit also very suitable for you."

He said it frankly.

"Are, are you an idiot... say that I am pretty all of a sudden!?"

Unexpectedly, Akane blushed—but she restrained it immediately. After a few seconds, Akane regained her calm look and continued leering at Tooya.

"... forget what you saw just now."

"That is, okay."

He answered it with laughter. Her gaze pierced through Tooya and shut his mouth.

"Then, I go back first."

Retreat as fast as he can.

"Hold it."

But he was stopped by Akane.

"... what do you want?"

"Don't slip away immediately."

"I don't want being told that by the one who will take out the gun so suddenly."

"Although I wanted to take out the gun, but I did not intended to fire it."

Then what was the need of taking out the gun, Tooya retorted in his heart.

“... then, what’s the matter?”

“Nothing, I just pass by here by chance.”

“... then, bye.”

“I told you to hold it.”

He was being pulled back.

“That’s why I said what the matter is.”

“Because you looks so distressed like you’re going to die, tell me the reason why.”

“Eh.”

His thought froze because of those unexpected words.

“That, wasn’t you hate me...”

“Don’t use ‘you’ that kind of disgusting appellation, my name’s Inaba Akane.”

“Then, Inaba-san.”

He said it with cautious.

“Wasn’t Inaba-san hate me?”

“To the extent that I will kill you instantly if I got the permission?”

“.....”

He was right.

“... if that’s then why do you still want to listen my worries?”

“In order to denounce you.”

She said so flatly.

“I just want to know how silly the worry that the worst kind of brat likes you have. Don’t bothered by it, it’s purely my own interest only.

“That means because you can’t engage on physical means so you’re planning to carry out in mental attack?”

“That’s right.”

No hesitation can be heard from her voice.

“No, normally a person won’t confess if being told to this extent.”

“If you don’t want to talk then let’s carry out negotiation in terms of physical.”

“Wasn’t you said you can’t engage on physical means...”

“Yeah.”

But she clenched her fist.

“... I just say then it’s okay right.”

Tooya sighed, then confessed the worry he thought about on the bench. She wouldn’t let him go if he didn’t confess what caused him to be unable to move forward.

“You are an idiot.”

This was Akane’s first response after hearing what Tooya said.

“No need to choose anymore? That’s fine enough? Is your brain rotten or what?”

“... why say like this all of a sudden.”

Moreover it sounded painful.

“You brat, have you forgotten the words that I specially gave you?”

She stared over here directly.

“I said don’t misunderstand right? I said don’t expect that I will forgive you right?”

Repeating that sentence.

“Then, why did you brat thought that I forgave you already?”

She stayed there and looked down on Tooya.

“Because that was...”

“Are you an idiot?”

Tooya's refute was interrupted.

"It doesn't matter who'll be the one to decide. It's a life that won't be lost if you did not exist. You have the responsibility for it no matter who be the one to decide, it is to be sure about."

Like saying something that was of course, she continued.

"Because those you killed are the evil one so you can be forgiven, don't you dare say that? Like I said, life was sacrificed because of your unauthorized action is something impossible to be forgiven. There's not a single life can be squandered as you like. Only people like me can kill those bad guys following my own preference so never mind."

"....."

Although her speech was a mess, what incredible about it was Tooya didn't gush out any refute at all from his heart.

"If you understand, I will assure the other things."

Suddenly, Akane bent her body and her face got closer to Tooya.

"You are the worst kind of brat... as long as you remember this then you won't have that kind of worry."

That sharp gaze pierced through Tooya's eyes.

"That's all."

Then she turned her gaze away suddenly.

"....."

Tooya can't give any reply at all... however, his suspended mood had been settled down.

"Inaba-san."

His mouth opened naturally.

"Ah?"

"Why do you have that kind of confidence to say I am the worst?"

"Of course, because I am justice."

She looked over here and answered without hesitation.

“Is there any reason in this?”

“No.”

An immediate reply.

“I was like this the moment I was born. It has nothing to do with the parenting. This is because although I lived in a very clean environment but it has nothing do with justice at all... no, there is something related to justice.”

It was like she ate some worms, Akane showed an annoyed expression.

“Something related?”

“There’s no reason to tell you about it.”

He got refused immediately.

“I am still me no matter what happened. As long as I believe the things that are correct, I can’t endure the existence contrasts to it and I am not intended to endure either. That’s why I absolutely have no intention to forgive you. Even you can fully understand it right.”

“... yes.”

Tooya nodded. Akane who confirmed that turn around and walks away.

“Bye then.”

Seems like she had finished what she wanted to say, Akane took her steps.

“Inaba-san.”

He called that figure that was walking away.

“What do you want.”

Akane turned half of her body over here.

“You, are my enemy... no matter what will happen.”

“Is that so, even you brat also won’t tolerate me huh.”

Immediate reply, Tooya surprised that she had no intention to inquire at all. And this time, she walked away without turning her head anymore. Tooya too

did not say anything after that.”

“Enemy, huh...”

Tooya murmured this with a peace of mind.

“Seems like you did not feel confused anymore.”

Kuroe said so when she saw Tooya went back home at the evening. Seems like she noticed the change in Tooya’s expression right away.

“Something good happened?”

“Well, you can say that I have recognized the current situation properly.”

He could be sure that he felt the thing that made him wavered.

“Fuu, not bad.”

“What?”

“It’s not something fun to me if master was still hesitant.”

“Ah I see...”

Different from Tooya, Kuroe still had an unwavering look.

“By the way, this thing was sent to here when master went out.”

Likes she remembered something, Kuroe walked towards the table.

“What is that?”

“Here.”

She handed over it to Tooya. It was a brown color envelope in A4 paper format.

“Probably was the information of the request that Tanaka said before. It was sent here directly three hours ago.”

“Ah ah.”

He totally forgot that something like this was said.

“He said that he hope we can give a reply by afternoon tomorrow after reading the detail in here.”

Seems like it had to be decided during in off days. Therefore, Tooya took out

and looked through the details immediately. First of all was the information of the demon sword mentioned in the coffee shop and there was also the detailed happening of the events, the photos of the corpses of the victims.

“... what a bad taste.”

Tooya frowned.

“Such a clear-cut.”

Kuroe who was sitting beside him said so after looking at the photos. The victims had wounds like what Kuroe said. The first victim was cut off from the right shoulder to the left waist in a slant way. The second victim was cut to two pieces directly. The places of being cut from the two victims separated beautifully... based on this point, indeed it can be considered this was not a normal murdering case.

“Eh, the second victim...”

The uniform on the second victim looks familiar... it was the same thing as Kuroe's school uniform hanged in the room. Tooya confirmed the resources in hurry, the victim really was a student which it was one year younger than Tooya that went to the same school as Tooya and Kuroe. Miyagishi Kana. Although Tooya heard the name before but he didn't know that she went to the same school as him.

“Although our grade were different but seems like a commotion happened before.”

“....”

“Well, master was isolated in the school so that's why you don't know ne.”

Seems like the class had talked about this before... that was normal. It would appear to be weird to not having a commotion if someone from the same school got murdered. Indeed the surrounding felt more disturbing compared to before, but Tooya who got used to being isolated assumed all these as normal noises.

“And you don't even watch news ne.”

Seems like she talked about what happened at that morning. If he did

watched the news nicely maybe he will noticed the fact indeed.

“If that way then master can’t carry out the investigation?”

“It’s not related to popularity.”

“You can’t say so ne.”

While saying, Kuroe drawn out a piece of paper from the materials.

“This is the suspect that we need to look into.”

“... Kuromine Mashiro.”

This was the name written on there. Her age was fifteen, in the same grade with the second victim—that meant she and Tooya went to the same school too.

“If our grade were different then...”

“Master is quite popular in school right?”

“... although it’s not wrong.”

Don’t talk about the face first, they would probably knew even if his name mentioned.

“They will probably in alert if master go and meet her?”

“You intend to meet her directly?”

“That way, it will simplify matters.”

Kuroe said so naturally.

“If just by investigating the surrounding and got the answer then the order of the black magic doesn’t need to request for our help. Because we went to the same school and able to get in contact with her easily, that’s why they requested for our help.”

“.....”

What Kuroe said was reasonable indeed. It was not a coincidence to be requested to investigate on the target that went to the same school. It would be easier to be in touch with the target if they went to the same school. That meant the investigation would be easier, what Tanaka said that the target was

easier for Tooya to investigate was acceptable.

“We can understand everything just by meeting her directly?”

“At least we can understand something.”

“... probably.”

Seemed like what Kuroe said sound unreliable.

“Or you got another plan? I just said, if just by investigating the surrounding they can get the answer then there’s no need for our appearance.”

“Even if you said so... ah.”

He just remembered suddenly.

“What’s the matter?”

“No, I forgot that I have no knowledge about the demon sword at all.”

Although he had the impression on it in a normal sense, but Tooya don’t exactly know what thing that was. Even if he thought about the investigation method he also couldn’t get into the point if he didn’t understand it.

Although he said that, actually the information was in the envelope, he just had to take it out and looked through it.

“This is it.”

Tooya took out the parts that recorded the information regarding the demon sword.

“Ho, where is it.”

Kuroe took a peek from the side.

“You want to have a look too?”

“Because I don’t know whether it is the same thing as what I knew.”

“There is this possibility indeed.”

It’d been few hundred years after all, maybe something like this would happen. Tooya read the information with Kuroe.

It said that in the demon sword had a spell that would cause the owner went

frenzy. It was unrelated to the owner's will, it would apply a strong intimation on the owner and made them wanted to kill people. The owner that had been applied the intimation wouldn't remember things in the deepest part in most situation, the owner would regain conscious by letting go of the sword for a moment. But the owner would receive the intimation that told him or her to take back the sword at the same time, the owner would attack people again after getting back the sword to his or her hand.

Looks like the demon sword was made by an illegal magician. Seems like the maker made this sword to give it to someone so they would be in trouble or cause chaos to the world. There was a photo of the demon sword on the information as reference.....although Tooya felt that it had no difference compared to a normal sword.

"It's different from the thing I knew."

"It is?"

"Yes."

Looks like the world of supernatural will change along the era... and—

"Spells and magicians... "

Tooya saw the words that were out of general theory again.

"You still want to say something like that?"

"... I know already."

This was a fact that he must accept.

"Well, because the image of the demon sword is something like what I imagined so I can somewhat understand. Things will be solved if we took it from the girl called Kuromine that owns it right?"

"Well, what you said is right if just based on the information."

"Kuroe, can you remove the intimation that tells the owner to grab back the demon sword?"

"It's a simple job as long as that spell was man-made."

As expected from a monster with strong power.

“Then, we just have to confirm whether that girl owns the demon sword or not.”

“Yeah.”

And so we went back to the topic just now...

“Why that girl called Kuromine becomes a suspect?”

Tooya said so didn't know the reasons in it. She was just a high school student. Why did she became the suspect of a demon sword owner.

“Wasn't that was something we have to confirm right from the beginning?”

“.....”

Tooya thought so too. Luckily there was an explanation about it in the information. Looks like that demon sword was put on the history museum before this. But the sword disappeared when Kuromine Mashiro went to that museum as a history lesson in class.

And after that, the elusive crime happened. They could determine that it was the work of the demon sword from the traces on the site. It was related to the disappearance of the demon sword just right. And so Mashiro who was the closest to the demon sword when it disappeared became a suspect naturally... something like this.

“Such a lax management.”

“They probably always thought it was a normal sword only.”

Moreover, they didn't realize that until it disappeared.

“In what era did that sword appeared?”

“It's like nine hundred years ago.”

A very old antique... that was why it was displayed in the museum.

“That way the situation will be different.”

“... what do you mean?”

“That thing was a remnant from the era of my previous master.”

“That means?”

“That means this was probably not a demon sword.”

Kuroe said so.

“This was what you said about different from what you knew?”

“Also it have this... if just about a sword with strong power then it was possible. Many things like that were made in that era after all.”

“... specifically say?”

“It’s fine to think of it as a legendary sword or a sword with magic power.”

“....”

Even though it was easy to understand but why you explained it that way.

“If there were that kind of things then they should have written it in the information.”

“Well, maybe they wanted to let me do it.”

“?”

“That means leaving the job of explanation to me. I had lived in that era after all, there was no explanation better than mine.”

Certainly it was very suitable for her to do so.

“... that means this request is the same.”

“I am sure they had evaluated properly before making decision... it was the most suitable for us indeed. The suspect and master went to the same thing and the source of the problem comes from the era that I’m well known of.”

It was too suitable for them.

“Did the sword that Kuroe talked about bring effect to the owner?”

“There were many kinds of power lodging in a sword... like enhancing the physical ability, converting the body into something that has hardness like iron and more.”

“No, I am not talking about that... like will it cause the owner wanting to attack people.”

“Although there were... most of them didn’t belong to that type.”

Kuroe answered.

“In that way, that means it was the owner’s will to attack people?”

“Maybe.”

“Maybe...”

She said it so easily.

“But, is it that simple—”

“There would be if it’s about killing people.”

Kuroe interrupted.

“As long as there was reason and power then a human will easily use that power, wasn’t master is the one understands that the most?”

“.....”

“Well, even if oneself has no reason, that power will become the reason for them to do so.”

“Although what you said was not wrong...”

He didn’t want to accept... but Tooya had no basis to deny it.

“Supposing that sword really was a demon sword, but then that girl would surely have no reason to use it?”

“That is...”

Tooya hesitated. Things about Kuromine Mashiro were printed in the information, included her interest to her recent developments... Tooya cheered up a bit and looked through it.

Then, the conclusions were based on the information—there was a reason for her to do so.

“The second victim, Miyagishi Kana and that girl were students from same grade... and seems like she was one of those involved in bullying that girl.”

“What, that girl is a child that being bullied huh.”

“... looks like it.”

The materials recorded this fact clearly. It began from spring. It was just because she refused some troublesome demands from those bullies. Spring in the first year was the time where everyone hadn't establish a good relationship with the others, those got aimed by a group of bullies will got isolated by the others quickly.

"Well, she got full motive to do it."

"... it's not a decisive evident."

Maybe she owned something... but Tooya still didn't know about that actually.

"We will start from whether she owns the sword told in this case or not."

"Can't you investigate it with your power?"

"I can know it if she brings it around... but, it will be bad to bring that thing around in peacetime."

"Then, you can't look for it by tracing the sword's power?"

"Because I did not notice that until it disappeared, so probably that sword had hidden its presence in the meantime."

That meant we couldn't even find where that sword hid.

"And there are unlimited places to hide that sword if someone intends to... if the sword can be found just by looking around the house then we are not needed anymore."

"... so the result is still the same."

Tooya sighed.

"Must we contact her?"

"That way will save more trouble. If she was not bewitched by the demon sword but attack people by her own will then there will be doubts from her behavior."

"If that was not the case?"

"We can find doubt too. The owner would be blank about the time when they got controlled by the demon sword, the owner would felt strange regarding

that.”

The person would be proved innocent if it didn’t fall to both sides. He wasn’t saying to judge things that simple, it was just by following the standard of eliminating those less suspicious.

“... well, there’s no other way.”

Tooya can’t think of any other way. He got zero experience regarding this kind of investigation, it was normal that he couldn’t think of any way. If he thought deeper, there was a better way actually.

“Actually, you can choose to refuse it?”

“It’s useless to say that by now.”

Even if there was next time... pretty sure the same thing would be repeated.

“Just do it.”

There was no other choice for Tooya.



“How was it?”

“What are you talking about.”

“You have met him right?”

“... how do you know.”

She glared at Tanaka.

“Leaving you that way yesterday and today was not because I got stupid.”

Tanaka shrugged.

“... I don’t felt there was someone tracking me.”

“There was GPS on your phone.”

“.....”

Akane took out her phone silently and gripped it tightly.

“Please don’t crush it... I will stop that function after this.”

“Tsk.”

Akane reduced her strength in her hand and clicked her tongue.

“Then, how was it?”

“What.”

“Your impression after talked with him. You went to meet him just when he was alone, wasn’t because there was something you mind about?”

“... nothing.”

Akane turned her gaze like throwing tantrum.

“He was just the worst brat only.”

“That was your impression?”

“... I want to kill him as soon as I can.”

“Saying that kind of thing again, huh.”

Tanaka smiled with bitter.

“Thanks to you.”

“That timing was the best to take action based on the intelligence I got... although now was a bit different.”

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue.

“... I have already wanted to ask this before.”

Akane said so like she thought of it in a sudden.

“What is it?”

“In the end, are you an intelligent or an assassin... which side?”

“Both of them.”

Tanaka answered pleasantly.

Chapter 3: He Works with the Man Eater -> The bullied child

Tooya and Kuroe went out from home on Monday as usual. Tooya contacted Tanaka and told him that he would accept the request at yesterday. Therefore, he intended to be in touch with the suspect on recess today. Although he thought of spending a day to peak on the suspect... but Tooya didn't want to be indecisive if possible.

Therefore they still went to the school—If nothing happened.

“Why are you here?”

“Is there a problem standing on the road built by the country?”

He met Akane after few steps away from home. She was wearing the white camo attire as before, carrying something like a golf bag on her shoulder.

“... No, no problem with that.”

Despite there was no problem, her appearance was worthy of questioning the reason.

“I smell iron ne.”

She snorted with a look to show that she got a sensitive nose.

“... Don't notice it if you can bastard.”

Akane gave up with a sigh and continued.

“This is a tool use for surveillance.”

“To monitor us?”

“That's right.”

She answered frankly.

“Although you two became the external collaborators but that doesn't mean we will let you away. The top has decided that we will monitor you two until you two gained the trust from us... and I took over this mission specifically, be

grateful.”

“It is strange that the watchdog will greet us frankly ne.”

“Because I’ll act as the advisor too.”

“Advisor?”

“Even the order of black magic won’t just leave the request to a newbie and do nothing.”

So that was what happening.

“Hmm... it’s difficult to have faith for her ne.”

“What?”

“It’s fine if you were just a watchdog, but can you act as our advisor earnestly?”

“What you trying to say?”

“Wasn’t you hate us. It’s better for you if we screwed up this request right?”

What Kuroe said hit the point. Akane’s feeling to Tooya and Kuroe was obvious. They couldn’t really think that she would be earnest on being their advisor. She would be happy if they failed, instead she would be not happy if they success.

“... There’s no such thing.”

“Can’t be trust ne.”

Kuroe stared at Akane. The former licked her lip and looked very happy.

“Tsk.”

And Akane clicked her tongue, it was like what Kuroe said was right. Then she spoke.

“Indeed it’s not bad if you guys fail... but I also wish you guys will not fail at the same time.”

“Ho.”

“Think about it, trouble will happen if you guys failed the request.”

“For the order of black magic?”

“It’s great if they bear the trouble... it’s another thing.”

Kuroe tilted her head intentionally.

“I don’t understand ne.”

She smiled while saying so.

“Tsk... it’s the normal people.”

Akane looked over Kuroe’s gaze unwillingly and answered.

“If you guys failed, the normal people who are not related to this case will probably get hurt. For example in this case, a new victim could appear if we settle it late... actually I am against leaving this case to you two.”

Akane said everything she had in her mind and stared at Tooya.

“Do it properly even if you die.”

“That is... yes.”

He could only nod.

“Then, you’re trying to follow us wearing like this?”

What Kuroe said was her white camo attire. Indeed it can camouflage in city with this attire... but normally it would cause attraction for sure. It should be weird if the passerby doesn’t look over here.

“Seems like she applied an incognition spell.”

“Eh?”

“It’s all written on your face.”

“.....”

Kuroe could always read what Tooya thought in his heart... and said all his thoughts were written on his face.

“Catch.”

“!?”

Tooya caught the thing she threw to him with panic. A small size earphone

and a microphone?

“It’s for contact between us, don’t lose it.”

“.....?”

“Because I can’t enter the school. I will monitor from outside. Contact me if there’s anything happen.”

That was what happened.

“I don’t have one?”

“It’s useless for you anyway.”

『Right.』

Kuroe answered with telepathy.

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue and looked at Tooya.

“Because I will also contact you so always wear it. Besides, the sensitivity is very high so speak softly is enough.”

“Understood.”

Tooya nodded frankly, then he put on the earphone. For the microphone he hid it inside around the buttons of his uniform.

“That’s all... bye.”

Akane turned around and walked away.

“.....”

Let’s send her back away with gaze first.

“What we do then?”

“Go to school first.”

The class started as usual after they went to school. Although Tooya accepted the request and began the investigation but he still had to attend class... besides, the suspect of the case, Kuromine Mashiro was also attending class so he couldn’t investigate even if he wanted to.

And there was no problem if Tooya attended classes seriously—If he did.

『Tsk, it's so boring here.』

He heard voices beside his ear. Crunching sound like biting something. It was from the earphone that he received this morning, certainly it was from Akane.

“... Is there something you want?”

He asked softly.

“No.”

Then don't contact me, Tooya thought so.

“I am bored.”

“... I see.”

If he thought calmly it was not something that couldn't be understand. Tooya they all were just attending classes normally. Although he didn't know Akane was monitoring at where, but kept looking over here was not something worth to be fun. Of course, this was nothing for someone who was on their duty... but Tooya couldn't thought that Akane would do her duty properly.

『Can I fire?』

“What, what you talking suddenly.

He almost shouted.

『I got a telescope that can replace as the scope of the sniper rifle... and it's aiming at your head just right.』

“Please don't use something like that for surveillance.”

So that was what was inside the golf bag.

“Besides, if you fire with that thing it will cause a big commotion.”

『Of course I know that... it's obvious that I am kidding. 』

But Tooya felt that she was serious.

『Oi, say something.』

“Please don't joke anymore... I am in class now.”

『I want to disturb you.』

She said it immediately.

『Because I am bored here, so I want to disturb you from listening in class.』

“I can understand even if you don’t explain it.”

Tooya sighed.

『Fur—-ther—-more, why you will listen class so earnestly?』

Her tone changed in a sudden.

“Why...”

『You want to study seriously and go to university? Just like a normal person.』

“.....”

She was implying that Tooya was not normal... he knew that long time ago, but his chest felt tight.

『Study normally.』

『Taking exam normally.』

『Go to a university normally.』

『Get a job normally.』

『Then marry with someone normally?』

Akane asked lightly, then continued.

『You are disgusting.』

“... I am.”

Even then, he still can’t say anything... at this time.

『I want to go ne.』

Another voice inserted in.

『I want to go to university ne?』

She laughed, that happiness appeared in his mind along with her voice.

『Isn’t it fun, things like school life.』

『Saying that while you are just a monster.』

Seems like Akane can heard Kuroe's voice.

『Monster can't go to university?』

『That is for sure.』

『But I can go study at high school like now ne?』

『Go die.』

A very ferocious reply.

“That means you want to go university right...”

『Yes.』

Tooya heard that for the first time.

『It's better to say that is my purpose ne.』

Stay together with human, that was Kuroe's purpose.

『Although I hadn't decide before this, but it seems fun to assume a post for permanent.』

“Who will hire you anyway.”

『You know that without saying right?』

Kuroe with her smirk face appeared on his mind.

『Oi.』

Akane's voice inserted in.

『Go die.』

Overall, focus in the class first.

Nothing happened after that, all the classes before recess ended. Tooya took a bag filled with lunch box and walked out the classroom as usual with Kuroe on his side.

“Let's go see her now?”

“Ah ah.”

Tooya nodded. Basically they should investigate the evaluation of the counterpart from the others at first... but the order of black magic had done that before this. Therefore they intended to get in touch with her directly.

“It will be great if she’s being bully now ne.”

[... Yeah.]

Tooya answered with an impression like swallowing worms. Looks like Kuromine Mashiro was being bullied by others in her class based on the information. It was normal to call the other side out during recess or after school to harass them everyday.

For Tooya who wanted to meet her, timing was what he worried about. If being greeted by someone that never met before, things would hard to go on... moreover Tooya’s reputation in school was not that good. Of course he also couldn’t tell the reason why he made conversation with her.

Next, like what he knew, it was a fact that Mashiro was being bullied. Then he just had to give a helping hand at that moment by standing by her side. In that situation, there would be no problem to start a conversation with her and made her open her heart... indeed it was something thought by someone with a bad character.

“So, just go to first year’s classrooms like this?”

“We are not going.”

“Uh?”

“... You know why actually.”

If really based on what was said in information, there wouldn’t have obvious bullying behavior in the classroom. That meant if Mashiro was in the classroom then they couldn’t do anything. If she went somewhere then Tooya who passed by [by chance] can just go help her.

“So where we are going?”

“Wasn’t that your job to find that place.”

This was where her clairvoyance shone.

“I am fine with that, but I require some time?”

“Why?”

It was clairvoyance we were talking about.

“My clairvoyance is not what master thought of.”

“... What’s going on?”

“That means I can’t know where is it immediately if I wanted to find something. To put it simply, I am just letting my vision fly out. Although I can see from very far distance, but it has no difference with finding it down to earth.”

Sounds like there were some people mistook that as the same as clairvoyance before. She had to move few times before she could see the destination. It’s acceptable if it was like what Kuroe said.....although he thought that was absolutely harassment.

“Well, because there will be interference from obstacles so it will still faster than finding around by walking. As long as we found some place that have no people around.”

“Then hurry up and do it.”

In fact it was definitely better than making a blind turn... although he thought so.

『In the stadium.』

After about three hours, Akane’s voice came beside his ear.

『She’s being covered by few people in the stadium... hurry up.』

Looks like Akane had grasped where she was. Although her attitude was bad but seems like she did her job as an advisor well.

“That is... thank you.”

『.....』

No reply.

But the destination confirmed.

“We haven’t search in the stadium ne.”

“Well, the stadium will not in our searching range if it’s to find places where there’s no people in the school.”

“Certainly.”

She nodded lightly.

“If it’s that kind of place, there won’t be things like meet by chance right?”

“It’s not strange wanting to find a place where there are no people to calm down.”

It was recess after all.

“... You are so pervert ne.”

“Why did you say so.”

“That was a place where a boy and a girl can find to calm down oh?”

“.....”

He imagined it... but did not blush at all.

“Help me think of another reason then.”

“It’s at the front after this turn.”

Kuroe’s clairvoyance would play its role well if she knew roughly where the place was. They heard noises after they confirmed they had reached the correct place. It was a voice that sounded very happy after insulting somebody. In the contrary, Tooya feeling the pain in his heart whom he couldn’t hear the sad uttering in this situation. Not sure if she was just purely can’t made any sound or she was thinking at least it can act as resistance.

“It’s the latter ne.”

Kuroe said towards here.

“... Uhh.”

Tooya bite his lip unconsciously because of the nasty memories appeared in his mind.

“What should we do ne?”

“We just have to appear directly from the front.”

Although it was not something worth to be proud of, Tooya was not that good in acting. It was easier to just do it directly instead of making tricks. Although it can be solved by using spells from Kuroe, but the details about the demon sword was not clear so it'd be better to not rely on Kuroe's power for now.

“What are you doing!”

Tooya shouted after jumped out from the corner. The situation in there reflected in his eyes immediately. A girl that got the same face from the photo in the information and two school girls that were pressing her on the ground. Besides, three person were standing far away watching everything and mocking at the girl. Tooya who understood the current situation felt heat spread out from his chest at the same time... and something black was mixed in there.

“Tsk, let's go.”

A school girl that looked like the leader turn around after clicked her tongue. The school girls that were pressing the girl released her and followed the leader. They just left without even turning their heads over here.

“So disappointed ne.”

“... Yeah.”

Actually he expected conflict to occur between them... what they did was something like giving up after meeting some trouble. If they thought that incident like this would happen often then that might be the right decision.

What should he do if they started to cause troubles. Tooya didn't know that because that kind of things didn't happen... things that couldn't be known best leave it aside. Compared to that, there was something that should be done now.

“Are you alright?”

Tooya reached his hand to her to pull her up and asked.

“Ah, yeah.”

She did not reject Tooya's helping hand and stood up frankly. Dirts can be seen around the uniform but no apparent wounds... there wouldn't be at the

face even if there were wounds. Therefore Tooya looked at Kuroe.

『There are small wounds at some places that can't be seen, nothing serious.』

Seems like Tooya's intention had transmitted properly.

"That is... thank you very much."

The girl beat the dust around her body, then thanked with an unexpectedly clear voice and bowed to show her gratitude. Although that couldn't be called bright, but the girl didn't have the atmosphere of someone that being bullied. Instead, that pair of sharp and strong eyes gave others a cheerful impression.

"So, you're not hurt?"

"Yes, I am just being kicked lightly."

She said it directly. Although he thought of the possibility of she denying that she was being bullied, but this kind of reply was unexpected.

"... Looks like you are being bullied?"

"Yea, I think so?"

The girl asked curiously, I should be the one who was curious.

"You don't hate it?"

"I hate oh?"

Wasn't that of course, the face of the girl that was looking on Tooya seemed like saying that.

"However, if I put out a sad look, won't that made me look even more pathetic?"

"So you're trying to act cheerful?"

"Yeah, although this way pissed those people off."

『What a strange girl ne.』

Tooya thought so too... there was still something that didn't have in the information.

"Anyway, this can consider as some kind of fate... can you listen to what I want to say?"

“Sure can. Because I am getting bored with those idiots.”

[.....]



She looked very arrogant.

“Wa, so this is how the rooftop looks like.”

After that, they three went to the rooftop. Although they could talk at the place where they were before, but rooftop would be the place to calm down and have a conversation. Half of the recess had passed when they reached here... looked like they had to skip the classes at the afternoon.

“It feels excited to skip classes and went to a prohibited place.”

“That is, I hope that you can keep secret about here.”

“Yes, I understand.”

She replied happily... he can't relate her to the girl that was being bullied just now at all.

“Then, uh... first is self-introduction.”

Tooya suggested after sitting down.

“I am Kamisaki Tooya, a second year.”

He introduced himself first.

“Oogami Kuroe, a second year too.”

Kuroe continued with her hypocritical as usual.

“I am Kuromine Mashiro, a first year... you two are seniors ne.”

“Looks like it ne.”

“Then, I will call you two as Kamisaki-senpai and Oogami-senpai. Call me Mashiro is enough.”

She talked endlessly.

“That is, okay.”

Tooya nodded after thinking for a while.

“Then, Mashiro... can I hear what happened just now?”

“Okay.”

She nodded.

“It’s like what you two saw, I am being bullied by five people.”

“Okay.”

“.....”

“.....”

“.....”

No one took over the conversation.

‘... That’s all?’

“That’s it oh?”

She looked over here curiously.

“Nothing more specific about that fact already oh?”

“I know that too... that’s not what I am asking.”

Tooya sighed.

“When did it started, and the reason for it... wasn’t there were things like that?”

“Ah ah, yeah. Indeed, there was.”

She nodded to show that she agreed what he said.

『What a strange girl ne.』

She really was.

“I had been targeted since I enrolled to this school. I think because I refused to replace them for cleaning? Although I refused in the normal way, but seems like they hated me because of this and picked me as the target to bully. Friends who went to the same middle school with me were not in the same class with me, but unlike me they had formed formidable groups... they didn’t talked to me other than during on duty. Although there were some wanted to talk with me, but we were not that close... and then I am isolated without knowing it.”

What Mashiro said was not much difference from the information given... but her indifferent tone was totally different from the impression he got from the information. Generally speaking, her attitude should be a little gloomy when

speaking about it.

“Although I was just being ignored at first, but then they started to harass me... their actions stepped up after that .As for use of violence was happened recently ,it’s a great help that you two came over here.”

“Well, it’s good that you are fine.”

To be honest, he felt relieved. A big mistake will be made if something happened.

『Empathy?』

A laugh can be heard... shut up, he answered.

“Although it’s just a common suggestion, but why don’t you talk to teacher?”

“Even the teachers won’t do anything if there’s no obvious evidence provided. Because they didn’t do anything that causes attraction in class. It’s just to the extent of being isolated in the class, even leave it aside will be fine for them... maybe they are thinking something blunt like building good relationships.”

Tooya remembered something the same... although not all teachers were like that, but at least Tooya and Mashiro hadn’t met that kind of teacher.

“But, they had started violent abuse?”

“Ah,it really happened just recently.”

“... Is that so?”

‘Yeah, it started few days ago.’

“Have you got any idea on it?”

Tooya asked. Even if the bully actions stepped up, there was a big gap between pure harassment and direct violence. There may be some clues in it.

“I guess they want to vent their anger.”

“... Anger?”

“Yeah, because one of their friends had been killed recently.”

“

The second victim of the serial killer incident. He just remembered that forgotten fact.

“Looks like it was done by the serial killer... and that killer hasn’t being caught. They made a move on me to forget their sadness and anger.”

“... Is that so.”

That was strange, Tooya thought so. Mashiro analyzed the situation really well. It was way too calm for a bullied litigant.

“It’s not like she was killed by Mashiro, it’s so troublesome.”

Because of Kuroe’s sudden comment, Tooya’s heart beat vigorously. As he thought she had left the conversation to him but suddenly she said something incredible in the end.

“That’s right. Although it was not like I never hate them... but I also feel pity since someone was dead.”

Mashiro showed a complicated impression. That was not a sad impression, instead it was a lonely impression that have to show its sadness... Tooya couldn’t judge that was based on what kind of feelings.

“That is, if it is possible for you.”

“Yes?”

“There may happen something even worse than today... can you come here tomorrow as well if you don’t mind?”

“That means having lunch together?”

“Ah ah.”

Tooya nodded.

“Normal students won’t come if it’s here... they can’t do something if you stay with us. We will go to your classroom and fetch you at tomorrow.”

“I am glad if it’s like that... but are you really fine with it?”

She looked at Tooya. Tooya nodded heavily to her, then looked at Kuroe.

“Kuroe is fine right?”

“Yeah, since we had been involved, we can’t really ignore it ne.”

She nodded gracefully. Then she smiled at Mashiro... still looked hypocritically as usual.

“Thank you!”

Mashiro showed a cheerful smile for this.

Anyway, it seemed like they had successfully got close to her.

“I am back.”

Time past without anything happened after that, and Tooya went back home. He skipped all the classes at the afternoon, just having innocent conversations with Mashiro. They said goodbye to Mashiro after school. For the sake of Mashiro who wanted to went back to get her things, they suggested to go with her to the classroom, but Mashiro rejected... actually it was fine to not worry to that extent.

“... So tired.”

He went to his room, took out the earphone in his ear and the microphone in his uniform and put them on the table. Then he lied down on his bed. Not only the fatigue from physical body, but also the fatigue from doing something that was not used to.

“It’s not like master ne.”

Kuroe who was looking at Tooya shrugged her shoulders.

“I am saying what happened in school.”

Although they said goodbye to Mashiro, but after all the request they accepted was to investigate on her. It should be better to follow her around after that. But then Akane contacted over here, saying left the surveillance outside the school to officers from the order of black magic, so they went back home. Looks like they didn’t need to do anything other than got in touch with her.

“Well, even if you said so... it’s better that we don’t need to do more than that.”

“Master was so serious ne.”

She looked at Tooya with smile.

“... What?”

“Because you feel sorry for lying to her right?”

[.....]

“Well, we did lie to her actually.”

Kukuku, she continued laughing.

“Shut up... compare to that, what did you get from it?”

“What?”

“About Mashiro.”

“She’s a strange girl ne.”

“... It’s not that.”

Tooya sighed. Kuroe was intentional for sure.

“I am talking about demon sword. Can’t you feel anything from Mashiro?”

“Yeah.”

She nodded frankly.

“Yeah, that means... ”

“I can’t feel anything?”

“Really?”

“You don’t trust me... ”

Kuroe lowered her shoulders like she had lost, but her lip bent up slightly, looking at Tooya in secret. That was why she couldn’t be trusted.

“You can inquire me by giving an order?”

“... I trust you.”

After thinking for a while, there wasn’t a need to lie on this.

“That means Mashiro didn’t hold the demon sword?”

“Is that so... holding it and owning it are two different things ne.”

“That means there is a possibility that she was just not bringing it around her.”

“That’s it.”

That meant no progress at all.

“Assume that she didn’t bring it around and hid it somewhere, where will she hide it?”

“Most possibly will be at her house.”

“The order of black magic had found it already if that’s the case.”

“Yeah ne.”

Because they couldn’t find it, that was why they entrusted it to Tooya.

“Then it would be in the body of the owner ne.”

“... In the body?”

He couldn’t understand what she said.

“Like what I said. It’s not buried in the body by physical means, instead it differentiates and melts into the body. It can be reconstructed when the owner wanted to use it. After differentiation, it becomes mere fragments so it doesn’t contain any power. That’s why I can’t sense it.”

“Where did that technology come from eh.”

“The exorcists in that era love to use this. It can be used to assassinate someone.”

It’s just a common occurrence for Kuroe... ah.

“That’s right, the sword in this incident was a thing from that era ne.”

Moreover, that sword had disappeared suddenly before. If that sword contained technology of what Kuroe said, then it’s possible that it was inside Mashiro’s body at that time.

“But if that’s the case then... ”

“The sword in this incident will not make people frenzy like what the

information stated, it's just a sword that causes the owner to have strong power."

"....."

If that was the case, then the cause of the incidents were not because of the sword... but the will of the owner.

"That kind of thing..."

"Can't affirm there's none I guess?"

"....."

He couldn't refute her statement. Although it was just the impression from first meeting, but Tooya felt that Mashiro was not a bad girl... however there were suspicious points indeed.

"That may not be the case."

Akane's voice appeared suddenly. Tooya looked around panicky and noticed Akane opened the door standing over there.

"Why are you here?"

"Are you dissatisfied that the adviser provides suggestion?"

"No, There's none... though."

Over the topic all of a sudden.

"How did you enter here..."

"I just press the doorbell normally, then greeted with your mother and came up here."

So normal... but how did the girl can come in. She was wearing camo suit and much older than Tooya obviously... didn't felt like there was any connection between her and Tooya.

"Eh, back to the topic before."

"Why you can interrupt us naturally even though you just appeared suddenly."

"The microphone."

She said something incredible.

“Just back to the topic before, it’s not sure that it was like what you said. It’s highly possible that it was just a sword with strong power indeed, but the possibility of it was not hasn’t eliminated completely.”

“Why?”

“A sword with power is just a weapon. There was no spell that could interfere other people on it. That sword was kept properly before this happened... how can someone who hadn’t touch this sword before can use it naturally like her own thing? I say this first, I had investigated that Kuromine Mashiro has no ability or skills regarding this.”

“Is that so ne.”

What Kuroe said should have a good thought about it, but now the tides had turned.

“Then what do you think?”

“That demon sword contains that kind of power.”

A demon sword that had the power as what Kuroe said and the effect as described in the information at the same time. If that was the case, that meant it could bewitch and stay on that person.

“Is there something like that in your era?”

“There was ne.”

“Then it’s confirmed.”

“I think it’s still too early to say that.”

Kuroe said so.

“There is a possibility that it doesn’t have any special ability ne.”

“... There is.”

He could only agree with it.

“Anyway, it’s better to observe for a little bit longer first ne.”

In the end, they still had to continue on investigating Mashiro.

“Ah ah.”

Akane nodded.

“.....”

“.....”

“.....”

“... That.”

“What.”

Because the discussion finished already, she wasn't going back?

“There's still problem from me.”

Akane stared at Tooya.

“You, if Kuromine really is the criminal then what will you do?”

“Eh?”

“I want to listen that if Kuromine Mashiro killed people by her own will then what will you do.”

“If that's the case...”

Tooya can't answer at that moment.

“Don't think of letting her away because you pity of her.”

She turned around after left some powerful sentences.

“You came here to say this purposely?”

Kuroe said towards that figure.

“Do you have any problem?”

She just turned around her head to answer.

“No.”

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders.

“Can I ask a question?”

“... What?”

“I am thinking, what are you think of that actually.”

“Huh?”

“Have you thought that it will be great if that girl is the criminal?”

“How was that possible.”

She just blurted out something like talking nonsense.

“For me, it will be the best if you two are assisting that girl in secret... then I can crush you all to pieces beautifully.”

“That was quite an interesting expectation ne.”

Kuroe laughed.

“Tsk.”

Akane left for real after clicked her tongue. And her greeting with Tooya’s mother from down floor can be heard slightly... a little surprising.

“Then, what is master going to do ne?”

“Uhh.”

“About that question, you can answer now right?”

Kuroe still asked despite the person who asked that was not here already.

“... I don’t know.”

There was no other answer in Tooya’s mind now.

“Yo.”

Akane visited Tanaka who was working in his own room. He confirmed the time, it’d already past evening. If considering Akane went back home after monitoring Tooya then only came here, it was not strange that she appeared now.

“How was the surveillance?”

“Very boring.”

Akane answered and lied down on the sofa in front of Tanaka’s desk without hesitation.

“... You are the one who desired that.”

He sighed. Akane who ignored that asked.

“Don’t you think that I was trying to fire or something?”

“Surveillance and sniping are two different things, like cat and sea cat.”

(TN Note: I just do direct translate from the words so I not sure if this comparison correct or not.) “Both sides are cats so it will be fine.”

Tanaka can’t take it and held his head.

“You came here just to say something like this? Don’t you think it’s weird to use a sniper rifle for surveillance?”

“Nothing is bad about it.”

“It is.”

Absolutely.

“Tsk, Tanaka is still lousy like usual.”

“Your thoughts are still very extreme like usual... so, how are they two?”

“Look over the report.”

“... You can just answer me since you are just right here.”

Tanaka sighed again. So troublesome, Akane’s thoughts were written on her face but she still answered.

“Living a student life normally.”

“Is that so.”

“Ah—-that monster was actually acting honest. I really want to shoot her.”

“Please don’t do that.”

“That’s why I didn’t shoot.”

“If it’s you, then it’s possible you will shoot.”

“... Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue. Tanaka thought of something and changed the topic.

“Speaking of which, a rocket launcher in the reserve room was missing...”

“Time to go back.”

Like all of the indiscretion until now was a lie, Akane stood up hurriedly.

“Ah, please wait.”

Before Tanaka finished his words, Akane went out from the room.

Chapter 4: Ordinary days with the man eater and the bullied child

“It’s a good weather today too ne.”

During recess, Tooya and Kuroe went to the rooftop together with Mashiro as promised. They found a nice place to sit and placed the lunchboxes. It was a clear sunny day like Mashiro said. There shouldn’t have something silly happened like the thought of someone could affect the weather.

“It’s a great help at that time, those people just wanted to bring me to somewhere I don’t know again.”

Tooya replied with a bitter smile to Mashiro who said that.

“It’s great that we went to meet you just in case.”

She was surrounded by the group when Tooya reached her classroom. They left after noticed Tooya.....perhaps they didn’t want to cause any uproar.

“That way seems effective, I can go to meet you tomorrow too if you don’t mind.”

“Although that was a great help to me.....”

Mashiro looked at Kuroe while saying that.

“Won’t that disturb you two?”

“Pff!?”

Tooya spouted the tea in his mouth.

“Why, why you say that all of a sudden.....”

“Eh, because the two of you were engaged?”

Mashiro was stunned because she didn’t expected Tooya to react that way.

“Yeah, that is it.”

Kuroe just smiled on this.

“Ne?”

Then she threw her gaze to Tooya. On her face was a cheerful smile, it didn't look like there was any mean of ridicule at all.

“Ah, well.”

He nodded. Although that was a setting created by Kuroe herself.....the others regarded it as a fact already despite it wasn't by his own will.

“But, why would you mentioned this?”

“Because.....you two were actually quite famous in school?”

Mashiro looked confused.

“That, especially Kamisaki-senpai.....”

Mashiro hesitated to continue, Tooya could roughly guessed what she wanted to say. The three students that went missing suddenly. Since the three of them always bullied Tooya.....Tooya was suspected as the criminal by the police for a period of time, even if the rumors were silenced the doubt on Tooya wouldn't disappear along with it. It would be a different case if those went missing were found or the criminal was caught.....but that was something impossible to happen.

In conclusion, Tooya became popular in school. The matter of he having a fiancée were spread along with the rumors. Things spreaded to quite an extend if Mashiro, who was isolated by her class at that time already knew about this.

“Well, my circumstances are almost the same as yours anyway.”

Mashiro laughed bitterly.

“.....”

What she said was just out of a whim if one thought about it. If Mashiro was the same as Tooya.....then it was like he was trying to escape from his own sin by pushing it into Mashiro and punishing her.

Yet Mashiro didn't know what Tooya was thinking and continued.

“So I was thinking is it alright to disturb you two.”

“You don't need to worry about that.”

Kuroe still smiled to reply her worry.

“Because I am always together with Tooya-kun at home.”

“That means you two live together right!”

“Yeah.”

Kuroe nodded to the surprised Mashiro.

“That, that means you two had already done this and that.....”

“No no, my parents stay with us too.”

Tooya interrupted in panic. He would be troubled if the others thought he had done those shameful things.

She looked at Tooya with a stare.

“But, you two stay in the same house right?”

“Even if what you said was correct.....”

By the way, it should be staying in the same room.

“Then, something certainly happened at places that your parents can’t see.....”

“That’s what I said, why you just want to think it to that direction.”

He felt a slight headache.....finally Mashiro showed an expression that she had noticed something.

“That’s right! It’s my mistake!”

“You finally under.....”

“It will be a problem if you have child when you are still a student right!”

“.....Yeah, well, forget it.”

As long as she could accept it.

-

“I am full!”

The time for Tooya to answer something that made his head hurt so much have ended after they finished their lunch. There was still some recess time,

what information should I gather—when Tooya was thinking that, Mashiro lied down on the floor.

“Feel like sleeping after eating ne—-”

“.....The remaining time is not enough for a sleep.”

“But I want to sleep～”

Mashiro closed her eyes and looked very comfortable.....if she was left here, she would enter the world of dreams immediately without doubt.

“You still want to skip classes?”

“Because I don’t want to go back to classroom.”

Tooya couldn’t reply something tough to what Mashiro said. Something like going back to the classroom was the same as going the territory of the bullies. Although they wouldn’t do anything explicit, but there were no Mashiro’s ally so in the end so Mashiro would feel mental fatigue by staying in the classroom.

“Moreover, I always felt that I didn’t get enough sleep～”

Mashiro was like talking in sleep.

“Did you stay up late at night?”

“I did sleep～I slept a lot but my drowsiness and tiredness didn’t go at all.....”

“That is.....”

Although Tooya wanted to continue asking but he stopped. A soft snoring sound can be heard from Mashiro. She was enjoying the sunbath comfortably, seemed like she wouldn’t wake up even if the sky fell down.

“Seems like it’s decided to skip classes after recess ne.”

“.....Yeah.”

They had to lock the door at the rooftop if going out. Leaving Mashiro here was the same as imprisoning her. For Tooya who couldn’t do this had to wait until Mashiro woke up naturally.

“.....I feel like sleeping too.”

Tooya felt sleepy after looking at Mashiro.

“You can sleep at my side oh?”

“I refuse to.”

He slept after the reply. Although the floor on the rooftop was made from hard concrete, but the sun produced a nice and warm air around here.

[Why you guys are sleeping eh.]

“!?”

Tooya couldn't help but stood up because a voice was heard from the earpiece suddenly.

“I, Inaba-san?”

[Don't reply loudly, or else the girl over there will wake up.]

[If that was it then it's better I don't speak out my voice.]

Kuroe replied with her telepathy, like she could hear what Akane said.

[Then, what's the matter?]

[Nothing.]

Akane said.

[I just want to harass those idiots that are going to sleep when the others are still working seriously over here.]

[Huh.]

Kuroe laughed pleasantly.

[Even if we want to have a nap leisurely you also don't allow to?]

[Of course.]

She answered immediately.



[It's better if you guys go die now, but that was impossible, so I can only let you guys stay alive for now to work hard as the compensation.]

[Rest is important for a more efficient work?]

[You guys just go work until death.]

She was still a person that spoke absurd things as usual.

[And do you guys dare to say you have worked hard? Just now you all were just having conversations that were worse than those love comedy.]

Seems like she heard those too.

[We had done our task today oh?]

[What?]

[I said it's been done.]

Kuroe pointed at Mashiro. Akane should be able to see it if she was monitoring properly.

[Wasn't she was just sleeping.]

[Yeah, that's right ne.]

Kuroe nodded.

[She looks sleeping comfortably ne.....even though she said she had enough sleep, ne.]

[What are you trying to say?]

[Looks like she had used up a lot of physical strength before this no matter how I see it. It's like she never slept before.....did the surveillance from the order of black magic mentioned the reason or something that caused this?]

[No.]

Looks like what Kuroe was implying had been conveyed, Akane snorted.

[Is this what you are trying to say? The demon sword took over her body when she was sleeping, that's why she cannot remove her tiredness no matter how long she sleeps.]

[It's not certain, but it is possible am I right?]

[Indeed.]

Although Mashiro has no conscious at that time, but if the body was moving around then naturally the tiredness couldn't be removed.

[However, that girl did not have any suspicious activities recently. She never went out from the house at night before.]

Unfortunately, the possibility for what they were saying was very low.....it was impossible that the demon sword took over her consciousness to just stay in the house without doing anything.

[But results are results ne. It's fine if we just take a little rest ne?]

[.....Just do what you like.]

Akane's voice cannot be heard anymore after saying that. She didn't say goodbye at all. She was just as unexpected as usual no matter during interrupting or leaving a conversation.

"Disconnected ne."

".....Seems like it."

Tooya sighed.

"What's wrong?"

"No, just feeling that person really came to disturb me from taking a nap."

To disturb others wholeheartedly.

In the end, Tooya didn't felt tired at all already.

By the time Mashiro woke up, the surrounding was painted crimson by the sunset.

"Such an energetic child."

"Yeah ne."

Couldn't imagine at all that she was being bullied now.

"It's a kind of cheerful aura that different from Rikka's ne."

".....What are you saying all of the sudden."

She said that name unexpectedly.

“It’s just my impression on them?”

Like who would believe that.

“That’s all, don’t stare at me.”

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders.

“Rikka’s name doesn’t appear when talking with master recently.....I thought you had finally forgotten her existence ne.”

“It’s impossible.”

There was not even a little possibility for that.

“If I had forgotten her.....you will be killed.”

Because that was the only reason why Tooya allowed Kuroe to stay alive until now.

“Yeah.”

Kuroe smiled.

“It’s because I can only stay alive by granting master’s wish.”

It was what Tooya’d wished for, let Rikka forget everything and sent her back to her ordinary days.....Rikka can live happily by forgetting everything about her father and Tooya. Their gazes wouldn’t come across even they studied in the same classroom. Because Tooya’s existence was not in Rikka’s perception.

Remove himself from Rikka’s ordinary days.....this was the reason why Tooya allowed Kuroe to stay alive. Because Tooya thought that Rikka could live happily this way.

It was not related to others.....not even Rikka’s own will.

What Tooya made was just a merely selfish wish.

“As long as Rikka was happy.....then I got nothing to hope for.”

“Is that really what you think?”

Suddenly Akane’s voice was heard. It was not from the earpiece in his ear, instead it was on the spot.

“Eh, why you are.....”

He didn't hear any sound about the rooftop's door being opened.

“I just flew over the wall and reach here.”

She simply said it. Kuroe had did something like that before too.....as expected from the person that could go one on one with Kuroe, looked like she was not only rival Kuroe in physical abilities.

“Still if someone saw that.....”

“Less people were here after school. A mild invisible spell was more than enough.”

A face that showed that was all of it.

“But why did you suddenly.....”

“Just wanted to scold you.”

She simply said so as usual.

“So rude after a sudden appearance ne.”

“Because I heard your conversations, so I go and look for some information to confirm the details.”

I knew everything already, Akane said so.....with that as the basis, she looked at Tooya.

“You brat, really was the worst.”

“Haa!?”

“Based on the results, wasn't you was just running away from her?”

Akane spitted out piercing words directly from the front.

“Although you said what you did was for the happiness of your childhood friend.....but actually you was just afraid to let her know that you are the one killed her father wasn't it?”

“That was.....”

“Do you dare to say you kill people for the sake of that girl?”

“How can I say that! That kind of things!”

Because those were done by Tooya his own without telling anyone. That was why he got no right to say that at all.

“I think so too.”

Akane accepted it easily.....then she continued.

“Because if you really thought for that girl, then it’s not necessary to kill her father.”

“.....!”

“I think you would have noticed that, right?”

Akane asked with a calm tone.....but Tooya felt an overwhelming pressure from her eyes.

“What Kurumi Rikka wished for was not her father’s death, but her father to change. Regardless of the possibility for that kind of thing to realize.....no, it’s possible for it to realize.”

Akane looked at Kuroe.

“If you used the power of that monster, something like changing the personality of a person can be done easily. Although her father was almost the same as death from the results.....but if thinking from Kurumi Rikka’s happiness then that way would get a better outcome.”

“Probably ne.”

Kuroe interrupted like she was agree with what Akane said. While Akane stared at her.

“Don’t give me that innocent look you monster. Surely you had already knew that could work but didn’t say it.”

“Who knows ne.”

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders with a smile.

Akane clicked her tongue and switched her gaze back to Tooya.

“You should had noticed that even if she didn’t say it.....or you didn’t see

through that like an idiot. Well, maybe that monster said something to you causing you to not notice that.....but all that were just hypothesis.”

That’s right, because everything had already happened——and it was over. Since it’d already decided, there was no meaning in discussing the decision that was made anymore.

“It’s because you hate her father. Nothing more than that.”

“.....”

Tooya didn’t nod.....yet he didn’t refute. But this was enough in this scene. Staying silence was the same as agree.

Tooya can’t make a negation. Because he did hate that person. To the extend keeping that existence far away from him. To the extend that even wanted to kill him.

Because Tooya can’t tolerate something like that person changed his ownself and smiling together with Rikka side by side.

“Said it’s for her happiness or what, don’t go and beautify your words so much.....in the end you just afraid to let her know right?Afraid to let Kurumi Rikka knows your sin killing her father wasn’t it?”

“.....”

Tooya remained silent.....he didn’t deny.

“If you really hope for her happiness then hurry go and die. You can atone for your sin if you die.....if you don’t do that, you are just the worst brat forever.”

“.....I think, what Inaba-san said was correct.”

Tooya nodded and said so.

“However,I won’t go die.”

He looked directly at her eyes and said it clearly.

“Tsk.”

She clicked her tongue.

“The conversation ends here, got to go.”

After saying that, Akane jumped up. She just flew over the barbed wire on the rooftop gently and let her body free to fall. Her figure disappeared in an instant. What she did was a suicide from what Tooya saw, but she wouldn't die that easily.

"Just came here to talk some nonsense then ran away by her own ne."

"Inaba-san was the correct one."

Tooya took down the microphone on his shirt before saying that.

".....But, she's wrong."

"Hmm?"

"She got it wrong."

Tooya was like saying an unshakable fact.

"It's true that I am afraid that Rikka will know the sin I have committed.....but, it's not because of the reason that Inaba-san said.

At the recess time on the next day, they went to meet Mashiro like usual. Mashiro didn't surrounded by the bullies like yesterday.....instead, her head was wrapped with a wet cloth and her right arm was supported by a triangle bandage. It was a look of an injured person no matter how you see.

"That injure....."

"Hahaha, I fell down from the stairs."

What Mashiro said with a bitter smile was not funny at all.

"Staying here is too conspicuous, let's go."

".....That's right."

Tooya nodded and took a peek at the classroom where Mashiro was. The group before this stay close and talking with each other at a corner of the classroom. Tooya's gaze met with one of the person in the group. The other side clicked her tongue and glared at Tooya. Tooya didn't saw feelings like remorse from her eyes.

[Time to go.]

“.....I know.”

He replied in whisper and moved towards the rooftop.

“.....Are you alright?”

Tooya asked immediately when they reached there.

“It’s fine.....the head got a small cut and the right arm was sprained only.”

Even if she said that, the bandage was a new one.

“When did this happen?”

“.....Yesterday.”

If it was yesterday then it happened after she separated with Tooya the two.

“It’s not.....accident right?”

“.....No evidence. Though I felt a push.....suddenly, from behind.”

Wasn’t that the same as confirmed. Tooya whispered to the microphone for further confirmation. How was it happened actually. Since she was monitoring Mashiro, of course she would know about this.

[It’s like what you thought about.]

The answer was here.

“.....Didn’t you stop them.”

[I was just in surveillance. And I was not in the scene at that time.....even if I was there then what could I do?]

Nothing at all. Although he wanted to say since you are monitoring her then you should stop them.....was something impossible. At the same time the group didn’t need to take responsibility. It was impossible to take out evidence under the basis that the surveillance was not known.

“Is it painful?”

Kuroe asked.

“A little.....but don’t mind it.”

“But in that way, what should you do about your lunch?”

Mashiro was in the situation where she couldn't use one of her arms.

"Ah, today's lunch is sandwiches so no problem."

While saying, Mashiro used one hand to open the lunchbox.....it's really difficult with the condition of only one hand can be used.

"I help you take it out, give me."

"Ah."

Tooya took Mashiro's bag from her before she could answer. After opened it using both hands, he took out a lunchbox wrapped with a piece of cute looking cloth. The knot on the lunchbox was quite troublesome for Mashiro, so he untied it before giving it back to Mashiro.

"Thank you."

Mashiro smiled shyly.

"Don't mind it."

It's not something great.

"But it feels lonely with only things like sandwiches ne."

Kuroe said so.....at the same time Tooya felt something chilling went through his body. No matter how Kuroe acted so close with the others, it was impossible that her mind didn't have any bad ideas.

[That's rude ne.]

Then what's with that teasing tone.

"If you don't mind, how about have some of mine?"

Kuroe showed her lunchbox to Mashiro. Many dishes that was prepared by Tooya's mother can be seen in it. The food was quite delicious even without the name 'parents' as adding points.

"Ah, but my hand....."

"Then let Tooya-kun feed you will be no problem."

"Why should I do that."

That was not something he should do.

“Eh, because wasn’t these kind of things should be done by a boy and a girl?”

Kuroe showed her act as an elegant lady.....surely she was enjoying this.

“But, but.....senpai will feel unhappy to do this kind of thing that should be done by couple only.”

Mashiro was denying by waving one of her hands. It was a great help that Mashiro had decent common sense.

“I don’t mind oh?”

Kuroe smiled.

“Then let’s do that.”

Kuroe said that like she thought of something good..... Tooya felt an annoying premonition.

“Tooya-kun will feed Mashiro, then I will feed Tooya-kun as the replacement.....that will be fine right?”

So this was what she was going for, Tooya was in deep regret. Kuroe always did some intriguing temptation to Tooya, but basically he disregarded every single one of it..... therefore she was trying to take action by capturing his weak point huh. Currently Kuroe’s behavior was not something could be blamed for, Tooya can’t say no either if Mashiro agreed with it.

But well, Mashiro wouldn’t accept that kind of stupid proposal.

“I, I don’t mind if that’s the case.....”

She accepted it!

“Then Tooya-kun, please feed Mashiro properly oh.”

“.....”

Why did it turned out to this.

“That, senpai.....can I?”

Mashiro asked with a look of a puppy.

“.....What you want to eat?”

Tooya couldn’t reject her.....Tooya showed his lunchbox that hadn’t being

touched yet to Mashiro. What was inside of the box had no differences from Kuroe's, the only thing was the amount which was more than Kuroe's because he was a boy.

"Then, this fried chicken."

"Understood."

Tooya caught up a piece of fried chicken with a pair of chopsticks. Mashiro's face was in red color already when he looked properly. She seemed nervous, her mouth was closed tightly.....even Tooya also felt a bit nervous, it was for sure that the one being fed would felt nervous too.

[Come on, ah—-]

A happy voice sounded in his brain.....he felt like wanting to punch her. But because Kuroe was not saying that from her mouth, so he couldn't do anything to her for now.

"That, can you open your mouth a little."

"Ah, that's right! I am sorry!"

Mashiro opened her mouth with her face getting more red. While Tooya delivered the fried chicken to her mouth slowly and carefully.....her mouth was still empty a moment ago, now she'd been biting the fried chicken.

".....It's, it's delicious."

"I, I see."

Both of them blushed.....what's with this.

"Then, now is Tooya-kun's turn ne."

Fufufu, a laugh sounds like that was heard. When Tooya turned around, Kuroe had caught up a piece of fried chicken with her chopsticks, looking over here with a standby look.

"Don't say things like hate it oh?"

Mashiro's gaze was fixed on them. She was waiting for that with full of expectation. Even though it was embarrassing but because she did it just now, so she wanted to see others being fed.

“.....Okay.”

Tooya nodded.

“Then, ah—-um.”

Although he felt like wanting to die but still opened his mouth.

[Oi.]

At the moment, Akane’s voice was heard.

[Go explode.]

If there was a hole here then he would drill his head in it without doubt.



Chapter 5: The affair between him and the man eater and the bullied child – the demon sword

That thing was awakening slowly.....no, it didn't awaken. Because that thing always maintained its consciousness.

However, it emerged intensely now.

It only had one purpose--

To kill.

That's all.

There would be prey no matter how many.

Yet it understood that killing casually was a no.

Therefore, it had to choose.

It had to choose its prey.

But, there wasn't a standard for it to choose.

If had to say why, it's because all the prey were the same to that thing.

Wanted to kill.

No need to change its target.

Then it only had one thing to worry about.

How it could make a better kill by concealing its presence.

It didn't matter who was the prey as long as this could be achieved.

And so, time to pick a prey.....and dispatched after be sure it could kill.

It moved.

And moved.

And moved.

Then it found it.

After that, kill.

[The third victim has appeared.]

This was the first thing Akane told them when they met her outside the house as usual. Tooya's mind stopped for a moment. Someone was dead. But he couldn't response immediately, it must be something related to himself..... after he noticed that, feelings of self-hatred spread out from his chest. What was the point of thinking that for now.

[Who's the one died ne?]

Therefore, Kuroe was the one asked.

[Asaki Yuri.]

Never heard that name before.

[What about her origin?]

He voiced out at last.

[You had met her before.]

Tooya could imagine what's her epilogue.

[One of the people in the group that bully Kuromine Mashiro.]

[.....I see.]

Tooya couldn't depict the face of the five of them in his mind immediately. He didn't know who was the one that died just by knowing her name. Tooya didn't have any good impression on them.....but he still felt a feeling of emptiness in his chest.

[The murder happened around 11 at night, behind an alley of a crowded street. Looks like she went out after back home from school, then got attacked after separated from her friends.]

[No clues being left by the criminal?]

Kuroe asked.

[No.]

[Completely?]

[Yeah, no matter witness or evidence also none.....it's the same as the previous two cases.]

[Hmm.]

Kuroe held her chin with her hand.

[What about Kuromine Mashiro at that time?]

[She didn't went out from her house at all based on the surveillance report.]

That meant Mashiro was not related to this incident. She couldn't commit murder if she was in her house when incident was happening.

[Let me ask this, she didn't went out from her house was the only thing you confirmed?]

[Yeah.]

[That means you didn't confirmed that she's in the house,right?]

[Yeah yeah.]

Akane nodded to Kuroe's double confirmation. Even Tooya understood what Kuroe was trying to say.

[That means Mashiro went out the house by avoiding the surveillance?]

[Yeah.]

Akane nodded.

[There is a possibility that she used invinsible spell.]

Tooya heard that word before.

[That means that spell can remove presence?]

[They still have presence ne. But it's not impossible for a caster who is excellent in using this spell to assassinate someone right in front of them without anyone knowing. Even for a normal caster, it's a simple matter for them to hide themselves from normal human.]

Kuroe turned her gaze to Akane after said so.

[The officer that in charge of the surveillance was?]

[.....just a normal human.]

Akane answered with a weakening tone.

[Tanaka that bastard said the order of black magic lack of manpower for now. Officers that had learned magic spells were only a handful.....therefore this kind of job will be given to those without special abilities.]

A normal person can handle surveillance duty well as long as they learned the techniques. But not for some duties that required officers with special abilities to handle. That's why duties such as surveillance will be in charged by officers without special ability for sure.

[In other words, she can avoid from the surveillance if she used invisible spell ne.]

Then she could return back to her house after the murder like nothing happened.

[That's right.]

Akane agreed without any objection.

[Wait for a moment.]

Therefore Tooya interrupted.

[What's wrong ne?]

[No, it sounds like Mashiro had been assumed as the criminal already?]

[Is it?]

[It was.]

At least Tooya could understand what they were trying to say.

[Although what Kuroe said was make sense to an extend.....but the possibility for Mashiro to stay in the house is higher right?]

Mashiro sneaked out the house by using invisible spell will be a weirder possible outcome if you considered it using general knowledge.

[It's not confirmed that Mashiro owns the demon sword.....and her arm was hurt. Do you think she can kill someone under that condition?]

[Well, what master said makes sense too.]

Kuroe agreed frankly. But she continued talking.

[But master too agree with me that she still remain suspected right?]

[That was.....]

[The second and the third victims in this case were related to Mashiro ne. She was present in the scene when the demon sword disappeared too.....there's a lot of reasons to cause her being a suspect.]

[But, there's no any evidence.]

[There's no evidence to remove her from being a suspect too ne?]

[.....]

There was the possible that Mashiro committed the crime as long as she used something beyond common sense.....and what was happening right now was something beyond common sense already.

[The situation right now is fifty-fifty, it hasn't inclined to either side ne.]

No matter which side of possibility it also couldn't be removed.

[And our job is to find out the evidence right?]

[.....Ah ah.]

Tooya nodded slightly.

However, that evidence inclined to one of the sides.

Tooya felt the school was more noisy than usual after he reached there. From what Kuroe heard, it was the matter of Asaki Yuri being murdered as expected. Although this case it hadn't reported in news yet, but rumors had been spread from somewhere. It would be different if it happened somewhere far away, this murder happened just around here after all.

The school was more noisy as usual, like being surrounded by a gloomy atmosphere.

Yet she showed a bright expression that in contrast to the atmosphere.

[Today's weather is great too!]

Tooya and Kuroe didn't go to Mashiro's classroom to meet her. This was because they received a message to meet at the rooftop directly from Mashiro. Mashiro said that two person from the group that bullied her were absent, so no need to worry in the message. Therefore Tooya and Kuroe was waiting Mashiro at the rooftop.....it was just that Mashiro looked very energetic when she came.

[Eh, that arm.....]

Tooya pointed at her arm,the triangle bandage before there was gone. Mashiro moved her right arm like it's nothing already.

[Ah,this? I felt that it's not pain anymore when waking up this morning..... looks like it was recovered!]

[It recover that fast.....]

It was impossible to recover from strain in one day.....could it be that she just acted like she got hurted. But then there was no reason to bandage just for one day. That would just make her more suspicious.

[[She did received treatment from an orthopedic doctor based on the surveillance report. The strain was real.]]

Akane said so as like she noticed Tooya's doubt. If that's the case, then Mashiro's strain was really recovered in one day only.

[Therefore I can have my lunch today normally.]

[I, I see.....that's great.]

[Yeah.]

Mashiro nodded happily.

[But I feel a bit sad that Kamisaki-senpai doesn't need to feed me anymore.....ah, Oogami-senpai will angry if I say things like that ne.]

Mashiro smiled while saying.

[That.....is something good happened?]

[Why you asked that?]

She looked at Tooya.

[No, it's just you look more energetic than usual.]

[Is that so?]

[.....Yeah.]

Mashiro played her hair without self-awareness like she was thinking hard of something.

[If I have say, I felt excited when waking up this morning.....maybe it's because my arm was recovered?]

Seems like she herself also don't know.

[Why don't we have lunch first? The recess wasn't that long ne.]

[That's right!]

Mashiro accepted Kuroe's proposal energetically and reached her hand to her lunchbox.

After Mashiro finished her lunch with full of energy, she went to sleep like she was disconnected from her consciousness.....she slept immediately like before, looked like she wouldn't be wake up that easily.

Then she woke up only when the sun was set, she apologized to Tooya and Kuroe for waiting her and went back home.

[Kuroe.....what do you think?]

[Hmm,what do master think then?]

Kuroe returned the same question back to Tooya.

[I am the one asked first.]

[Then what I think will be the same as what master think.]

Kuroe's lips bent slightly, showing a mischievous smile.

[Master has the hobby of wanting people to speak out their guess which is contrary to what you expected ne.....especially the obvious one.]

[.....]

Tooya got hit right in the spot by Kuroe closed his mouth.

[Mashiro, she looks very suspicious.]

Tooya said it with difficulty.

[Yeah, to the extent of very obvious ne.]

[.....Ah ah.]

No matter the recovery of her arm or the intriguing excitement, also the lack of sleep she had along the time.

[Master didn't mention about the dead girl in front of Mashiro ne.]

[.....]

Mashiro was talking non-stop during recess today.....but they didn't mention anything about Asaki Yuri at all. It was impossible that Mashiro didn't heard about it since it had been an uproar in school.....perhaps Mashiro had been the center of attention in school already.

Tooya can mention matters regarding Asaki Yuri whenever he wanted to.....yet in the end Tooya didn't say it. He was not afraid of dampening Mashiro's excitement.....he was afraid that it was possible her excitement won't cease even if he mentioned that.

[Well, that means the possibility had inclined to one side already ne.....]

Kuroe stared at somewhere beside her.....there was nothing over there. But Kuroe just stare at there and said something.

[What do you think ne?]

[Tsk.]

Akane appeared along with a voice of clicking tongue.

[Eh!?]

Tooya was surprised.

[It's an invisibility spell.]

Kuroe said so.

[To actually demonstrate to master who doesn't know about it, how kind of you ne.]

[.....I didn't have that intention at all.]

[Then why did you do so?]

[.....]

[Or you want to try whether your invisibility can hide from my eyes?]

Kuroe looked at her with a mocking smile.

[Tsk.]

Akane clicked her tongue.

[Then, what's your opinion? Miss Advisor.]

[She's guilty.]

Akane answered right away.

[The possibility is too high.]

[Yeah.]

Kuroe agreed with Akane.

[But it's not a bad result to master ne.]

[?]

[If Mashiro used the sword by her own will then it's hard to imagine that she will expose such obvious flaw.]

Because it'd been confirmed that she was suspicious.

[Then Mashiro was controlled by the demon sword?]

[It's quite possible ne.]

Tooya felt assured to hear that confirmation.....but another question appeared.

[But if that's the case.....then why it went for people who bullied Mashiro?]

It might be coincidence if there was only one person, but two were murdered at this moment. Of course the intention of the murder was taken into consideration. However, if what Kuroe said was true, that Mashiro was controlled by the demon sword, then the demon sword would be the one

selecting who to kill.

[There are two possibles.]

Akane replied to Tooya's question.

[The first possible is Kuromine Mashiro used the sword by her own will.]

[But that.....]

[What that monster said was just a possibility, it's not confirmed yet. There is the possible that Kuromine Mashiro is just a simple idiot. Human mind will be very simple once they got power.]

Tooya felt Akane's gaze was implying [you brat is just the same.]

[Another possible is Kuromine Mashiro affected the demon sword unconsciously. The implication that the demon sword affected her can be in two ways, one is killing people randomly and another one is killing people secretly for the sake of killing more people. The former is that it just doing what it wants, while the latter is that it was murdering without exposing its presence. That means she had chosen her target without herself noticed that.]

[That means the targets were chosen by Mashiro unconsciously?]

[That's right. The meaning of anyone is fine as long as they can be killed without being noticed—that means it doesn't matter who to kill as long as the conditions were fulfilled. If the demon sword met the targets that were decided unconsciously by Kuromine Mashiro at that time, then it's not that strange for it to go for them.]

[.....]

But, if that was the truth then Mashiro was guilty.....the truth of her being bullied cannot change no matter how cheerful she was showing before this. It was not surprising for her to hate the bullies, even if she had the thought of killing them.....but that was how far she went. I guess she didn't have the intention to carry out that feeling physically. Probably that Mashiro didn't know anything at all.

Although the feelings that she had was nothing enjoyable, but it was something common to everyone.

The demon sword affected by these feelings and killed them using Mashiro's body.

Is that considering Mashiro guilty too?

[Hey, Akane.]

[.....Don't call me by my name.]

[Then, Inaba.]

[Tsk.]

Akane glared at Kuroe.

[What you want huh.]

[The Kuromine Mashiro that we know is an incredibly cheerful girl.....but was she always like that?]

[What do you mean?]

Tooya didn't understand what was Kuroe trying to know.

[Nothing.....I was thinking that,maybe that girl became cheerful after the people bullying her were dead.]

[What!?!]

[That girl said it before right? The bully became more intense recently. Although the reason can be that they are releasing the grief from the dead of their friend.....but don't you think there is another more appropriate reason? For example, because a fellow that becomes more cheerful after their friend died, or something like that ne.]

It would be certain that they would want to beat that fellow up if it was true.....even if that was the product of their own negative behavior.

[Mashiro said that she don't know why she was full of spirit. Why she was so excited after waking up.....perhaps she actually really don't know why ne. She felt happy if she doesn't know the reason. If she knows then at least the others can notice that she was hiding something.]

Even if they were the one bullying Mashiro, they would still angry if she was showing a happy expression after one of their friend died, it was a given.

[Although she didn't have conscious, but her body did completed the crime ne. Even if her conscious didn't know, but her subconscious can feel it—the people that will harm her had disappeared. That is why she got affected by the demon sword even without consciousness.]

Actually Mashiro should be surrounded by the feeling of guilty. But her ownself didn't know anything at all, about why she had that happy feeling. Without the feeling of guilty, then naturally there would be the feeling of happiness because the harm was disappeared.....even if she didn't know the reasons for it.

[Then, what are you trying to say?]

[I am just analyzing the situation ne.]

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders.

[Wasn't your job is to provide guidance? I really want to know how far can your intuition that you're very proud of works ne?]

[.....]

Akane didn't say anything to Kuroe and looked at Tooya.

[Kuromine Mashiro owns the demon sword, that is for sure. What you have to think of is how to find out that demon sword. The monster over there will figure out something after you've done that.]

[Find out the demon sword.....]

Tooya repeatedly saying things that he actually didn't want to. It was easy to just say it.....the problem was how he could find out the demon sword. Speaking of the place it hid. Did it hide itself in somewhere, or did it hide inside Mashiro's body.....probably the latter. It was impossible for her to pass through the surveillance without being noticed if the demon sword was not with her. Moreover, if she left the demon sword in home then the order of black magic had found it long time ago.

It was not just bcause the person owning it wanting to cut people, it was also a demon sword with special abilities. A sword that didn't exist in this modern era, but the era where Kuroe was there before.

[.....]

Tooya can't think of an effective method. No idea had come to his mind, and he was not an experienced person either.

Instead, he got some simple thoughts.

[Use bait, or something like that.]

About the details, Tooya didn't think of it yet. The moment Mashiro actually took out the demon sword.....will be the moment when she carries out the murder. If the will of the demon sword would be affected by Mashiro's subconscious, then it will take the bait for sure as long as there was one based on the situation.

[Although simple, but not a bad idea.]

Kuroe's impression looked more like not surprised instead of admiring Tooya's idea.

[Then who will be the bait?]

Akane replied with a question.

[That.....]

Of course those would be targeted by Mashiro's subconscious.....no, probably not. Although the idea of using them as bait appeared in Tooya's mind, but his rationality denied the feeling of 'just do it anyway' immediately.

[Just use the girls that bullied Mashiro before. Since they have precedent already, she will take action as long as we have done enough preparations.]

But Kuroe doesn't thought of what Tooya did.

[Rejected.]

Akane denied right away.

[Why ne?]

[It's impossible to issue a consent that will cause harm to normal people.]

Even though the order of black magic was not an official existence but it was still an organization managed by the nation. Its primary purpose was to protect

the citizens. They can't involve people that was unrelated to the case no matter what.

[Even though it does not matter when comes to us.]

[Cannot.]

[Maybe Tanaka will permit ne.]

[I am not Tanaka.]

They didn't have any similarities at all.

[Hmm, then we use master.]

[Eh?]

Tooya was stunned because his name was mentioned.

[.....Isn't that too reckless?]

Objectively speaking, it seemed that Mashiro didn't hate Tooya. The possibility for her to attack Tooya was quite low even if they created a convenient situation for her to take action.

[Not really, there will be a way to hide the appearance. As for the smell or something like that I can copy it perfectly ne.]

Although it was possible if Kuroe wanted to do it.....Tooya can't help but looking at Akane and asked for help.

[Okay, accepted.]

She didn't intend to help him at all.

[That's all. It doesn't matter even if you die. It would be better if you die. Just go and die.]

And she was saying something unreasonable.

[Should be no problem to use the school as the arena. About the details in fight we will discuss later.....when will we carry it out?]

[The earlier the better. The exam is near, so the club activities after school will be restricted, it's easy to get away from the crowd.]

[Alright. I will contact you guys before the final phase of the fight.]

They had planned it well already.....Tooya got no chance to dish out his objections at all.

[Hey.]

Akane looked at Tooya.

[It's not early now, we better go back first for today.]

[Ah, yeah.]

The surrounding became dark already.

[Your bag was in the classroom?]

[Ah, that, yeah.]

He just brought his lunchbox like usual. Because he skipped the classes for the afternoon and waited for Mashiro until she woke up, of course the bag was left in the classroom.

[Then, take for that monster too.]

[Eh.]

[I just have something to talk with her.....just for a moment. After you took the bags, straight away go to staircase. If it's her she can catch up to you.]

[.....]

Akane with Kuroe alone.....Tooya was looking at Kuroe while thinking the meaning of that. Kuroe maintained her usual smiling face. Seems like Kuroe didn't intend to oppose Akane's proposal.

[.....Just talk a little bit right?]

[Just a little bit.]

[.....Understood.]

Tooya nodded and look at Kuroe again.

[Don't take any action, this is an order.]

[Not trusting me huh.]

Kuroe was pouting to show her unsatisfactory.

[You believe that woman but not me?]

[.....Kuroe.]

[I know already.]

Kuroe still showing her unsatisfactory and nodded.

Tooya went down after he had Kuroe's confirmation.

[So, what you want to talk about?]

The moment Tooya left, Kuroe showed her usual fearless smile again.

In contrast, Akane glared at Kuroe like she didn't think of anything.

[So terrifying ne.....ask me to stay here just to glare at me?]

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders.

[How much have you noticed already?]

Akane asked after ignored her provoke.

[What do you know in the end?]

Akane was very convinced.

[What do you mean ne?]

Kuroe tilted her head like pretending confused.

[.....You, know something that we don't know.]

[Hmm?]

[Say it out, everything.]

Akane glared at Kuroe.

[The things that you talk about, is something like the identity of the demon sword?]

[.....Right.]

[You think that I am implying something?]

[No.]

Akane denied.

[Certainly you said your opinion and answered the questions properly..... but, you didn't say out everything. Actually you know the methods to resolve this case wasn't it?]

[You are overestimating me.]

[It's not overestimate.....it's intuition.]

[Ho.]

[And the other thing is that face of yours. It's like you are laughing at those ignorant rivals even though we are in the position of knowing nothing.]

[I see, so that is how my face looks like ne.]

Kuroe was just smiling.

[Tsk.]

Akane clicked her tongue.

[Then, are you going to say it?]

[No—-actually I also know nothing ne.]



Kuroe laughed with the feeling of mocking.

[Want me to hit you until you want to say?]

Akane held her fist with another hand.

[I will be troubled ne. Since master told me not to take any action.]

Although Kuroe didn't look troubled at all.

[Victims appeared right after the investigation started.....if we settled the case right before that then there will be no victims. If this result happened because of your silence, then I will never forgive you.]

[That is not in my common sense list ne.]

Kuroe said boringly.

[A human's life or death doesn't matter to me at all.....did you forgot? I am a monster oh?]

Kuroe continued with another question.

[Besides, even if I say it, will you believe me?]

[.....]

[I did made a contract with master so I must listen to his orders.....there's no other restriction ne. I didn't have the obligation to give advise to what master is thinking. If he asked then I will answer, if he doesn't then it's not necessary for me to say anything.]

Although Tooya did issued some orders as restrictions. But all of them were not related to the situation right now.

[This is all I can say. You can call my master, who you insulted the worst back here and earnestly request him to ask me oh?]

Kuroe laughed while looking at Akane.

[Ask him to order me to say out everything or something like that.]

[.....]

Akane clicked her tongue, then glared at Kuroe.

[One day, I will kill you.]

[Hope you won't be the one got killed ne.]

And so they parted ways.



[.....So, in that day officers from the order of black magic will open up a barrier around the school to alienate the crowd. That way there won't be interference from outside.]

[Hmm, after that will be my turn ne.]

[That's right.]

Two days after the rooftop incident, Akane came to Tooya's house. Akane brought the report to them after the preparations for the plan were done. Just inform us by phone call instead of coming here if you not going to conceal that unpleasant facial expression of yours, Tooya thought so.....seems like she quite followed the rules in some subtle aspects.

[Then, when are we going to carry out?]

[Tomorrow.]

[Eh?]

So fast.

[Why so fast!]

[Wasn't you guys are the one said the earlier the better.]

Actually only Kuroe said that.

[Don't expect me to change the date.]

[.....Understood.]

It was futile even if he tried to reject.

[Are you feeling uneasy?]

[That is.....]

It was certain that he felt uneasy. Tooya took the most dangerous role, which was the bait. Even though he hadn't adapted to the situation and didn't know what to do yet, they had decided to carry out the plan on tomorrow already. It

was normal for him to feel uneasy.

[It doesn't matter.]

Akane said with a gentle voice.

[Just go and fail. And then go die. Even so I am fine with it.]

[.....]

Akane just know how to hit a person when he was down as always.

[Won't you wonder whether the plan will success or not?]

[Ah?]

[Just use your intuition that you're very proud of then you will know right?]

Intuition. Which was called the physic's blessing by Tanaka. An intuition with 100% accuracy owned by Akane.

[It's not something that convenient.]

[Hmm?]

[It's not something that can use just when I want to. Sometimes, I will firmly believe in something without any reason.....that's all. I also don't know why I have that feeling, of course I couldn't explain the reason properly too. It's just when I had that feeling, what I believed would realize for sure.]

[Such an inconvenient ability ne.]

[I guess so. That's why sometimes I will understand something all of a sudden or something very important.....it's not limited to good things only.]

Akane said the last sentence with gloomy tone.

[Like you will know when someone will die ne?]

Kuroe hit right on the spot without hesitation.

[It's like what you said, bastard.]

For example, when a person suffers heavy injury, no one knew he will survive or not. But at that moment Akane will firmly believe that person will die for sure. What kind of feelings she had in that moment.....Tooya couldn't imagine it.

[Then when that time you attacked Kuroe, did you convince that you can kill Kuroe for sure?]

Tooya asked that to turn off the topic.

[.....Eh? But the situation develope to another direction at that time.

Kuroe noticed it right away. From what Tanaka said, Akane did announced that she would win yet she couldn't kill Kuroe. I wonder what would happen if we waged a war against the order of black magic.

[So what is your answer ne?]

Kuroe asked.

[I did convinced that I won't lose.]

[Eh.]

[I did convinced that I won't lose.]

Akane repeated her words. Not being convinced that she would win, but she wouldn't lose.

[Since I won't lose, then in the end I will kill you two for sure as long as I don't give up.]

[.....I guess.]

Seems like there was not a choice like a draw in her mind.

[I won't give up.]

Akane looked at them.

[Try hard until you can then.]

Kuroe laughed with mockery.

[.....Haa.]

Tooya just sighed.

Although tomorrow was very annoying, but right now was just the same.

Chapter 6: He and Man-eater vs. the Demon Sword

She hated pain, and hated being alone. So to be honest, things like being bully was something that she hated even more.....but Mashiro didn't have the strength and spirit to go against the situation. The bully might be even worse on her. Therefore, Mashiro got stronger by enduring those things.

But as expected, she still felt lonely.

Therefore, Mashiro felt very happy recently. Because of an accident, she met the seniors. Maybe one of the senior had the same situation as her, they could talk to each other very well. And the another senior always look at her like a kind elder sister.

Although there was only two seniors, but Mashiro was not alone anymore.

Maybe that was the reason why her mood was so good recently. She fell asleep quickly at night and even daytime too. Mashiro thought the reason must be that she was feeling assured right now.

Moreover, Mashiro still had some thought. That two persons, which would only bully Mashiro, had died. She didn't ridicule or show her happiness on their deaths.....even so, it was certain that she felt happy.

And so, she slept.

She went to sleep today too.

In that way, Mashiro let go of her consciousness.

"Hmm, master is a girl no matter how you look."

".....Wow, indeed."

Because there was no mirror, so he took a look on his translucent body through the windowpane. The person he saw was not the person called Kamisaki Tooya, but one of the girl that bullied Mashiro. Although he couldn't see his own face, but his hands were no longer the hands that he was familiar with. They were slim and small, like the hands of a girl. Honestly, even he felt weird on the shape of his body.

“How did you do this?”

Even his voice changed.

“I used a spell which can manipulate a person’s body ne. Just think that you have no difference from that girl during time the spell is working.”

“No, I still don’t understand what’s happening.”

“Even if I explained, master also couldn’t understand anyway.”

“.....Well, what you said was correct.”

Even if Tooya was the one who lost his reasons, but it was something out of common sense.

“Your physical ability remains the same so no problem.”

“Is that so.”

That would be great. I wouldn’t be able to put up resistance during that time if my physical ability was altered.

“Disgusting.”

The impression of Akane right after she saw Tooya became a female.

“.....I can change back to how I was right?”

He just wanted to confirm.

“Of course ne, I am not inclined to having intimate contact with a girl.”

Although Tooya thought that was not the problem, but he didn’t say it.

“So I just have to wait?”

“That’s right.”

Kuroe nodded.

“Then we will get away from here without leaving any traces and monitor from somewhere.”

“Shout only when you are dead.”

“No no, I guess I won’t be able to shout during that time.”

That thing woke up, during when the sun was setting. Actually, that thing

always had consciousness. It was just its consciousness came out strongly right now.

There was not a single person around it.

But, it sensed a prey.

It wanted to kill.

A prey that supposed to be killed.

And the prey was alone right now.

Just kill it.

Motivated by its natural instinct.

Therefore, it moved to its prey.

Tooya was waiting in the empty classroom. The sun was setting, lights shined into the classroom. It'd been four hours, since Tooya left a notice to the sleeping Mashiro about him having to go back first because something happened.

Tooya looked totally different right now because of the spell Kuroe cast. Even his smell changed. Via the help from the Order of Black Magic, no one was in the school other than Tooya and those involved. If Mashiro was the one own the demon sword, then this would be the best opportunity for her to assault Tooya.....otherwise, nothing would happen. It'd be just that Mashiro would have a memory of being left alone at the rooftop.

“.....Fu.”

Tooya exhaled. Although he'd been told that it was enough to just stay in the classroom and wait, but it'd been three hours since Kuroe and Akane left here. Couldn't be helped that he felt bored over. He couldn't contact them to prevent being noticed by the demon sword. Even though Tooya thought that if it had this kind of ability then their plan would had been exposed in the first place.....as for this, Kuroe and Akane said that its ability would only on effect when it came out. Although Tooya felt that it was just their thoughts, but the plan would be meaningless if that was not the case.

“I will walk around the corridor then.”

Tooya mumbled to himself. His role as a bait would still be fine. As long as he was inside school. He wanted to do something even if he was just waiting.

“Okay, that’s decided.”

The moment he walked towards the door while mumbling, an oblique line appeared on the door.

“Eh.”

The number of lines increased continuously on the door. Then countless of fragments dropped on the ground by obeying the rule of gravity. There was no longer a door over there ,it was just something being destroyed until nobody could recognize what it was.

And the existence that caused this was standing right over there.

“That is.....”

No need to explain. The demon sword had locked on its target. then carry out the murder when the target lowered its guard.....so the mark had transferred to Tooya the moment Kuroe changed his appearance.

Therefore, the demon sword came here right away after it awakened.

Tooya had made up his mind. Fear existed in his mind. Of course he felt fear. Even so, he had to take it and give a try.

“.....Ahhaha.”

Such an idiotic thought. It was futile to call Kuroe for help.....by the way, there should be a reason to ask Tooya to become the bait. Kuroe could also be bait if she used the spell on her own.....it was too late for him to notice that right now.

Too horrible.

In conclusion, it was horrible. Even more horrible than a gun. Slash, pain, then dead. It was something easily to imagine. It must be more lethal than a gun. A very simple horror.

“Are you.....Mashiro?”

The reason why Tooya used interrogative sentence was because the person

holding demon sword was looked different from the person that Tooya knew. She wa's supposed to be short hair, but now her hair extended to her waist. Her bangs covered her face too. Her eyes looked totally different from the person Tooya knew.....from what Tooya see, she was like being surrounded by a layer of unknown aura.

“.....”

Seems like her hair will extend when the demon sword awakened. I wondered what will happen when she went back to normal. Will she cut off the extended hair on her own or the hair shrink back to its normal length. And why her hair extended, many questions appeared in his mind.....yeah, he was escaping reality right now.

But Mashiro who was in that condition ignored what Tooya was thinking, she started attacking Tooya to kill her prey.

“Ku!”

Tooya ran in vertical direction immediately. From the doorway that was opposite to where Mashiro slashed off and ran along the corridor. His instinct told him to run.

Relentless.

Was what Tooya thinking right now. There was no meaning for him to run away. Everyone had left this premise under the help of Akane, and the objective would not be able to achieve if he ran away. Even so, his legs were still running without wanting to stop. And his running speed right now could even put those athletes in shame because of the effect from making contract with Kuroe increased his physical ability.

“Ku, how could she catch up!”



Mashiro was already behind him when he looked back. He was running at full speed, but their distance didn't increase at all even though she was chasing him with her hands holding the sword horizontally. Now Tooya remembered, Kuroe did said that the demon sword will increase the physical ability of the owner.....damn.

Tooya's vision deviated suddenly. He didn't feel he'd slipped or tripped, but he knew that he fell down. Was it illusion that he heard a malicious laugh? Both of his hands landed on the ground with unstoppable force, then his body rolled on the ground.

Pain came out from the joints, and Tooya felt very bad at the same time. The moment he turned his head, Mashiro was holding the sword vertically in the air over there. The next moment, the sword waved downwards.

“!?”

Tooya turned to the right immediately. The sword that was waved downwards pierced into the floor of the corridor in a straight way. How could the sword pierce the floor. It should be bounced right off. Such thought kept appearing in Tooya's mind. From what he saw it was just a normal old japanese sword, but how sharp could that sword be to pierce the floor.

At the same time, Tooya heard the word 'a chance' in his mind. 30 centimeters from the front end of the sword was stuck inside the floor. If it was now then I should be able to suppress Mashiro.....Tooya moved his body while thinking that.

A chill was felt from his back.

Because of the inexplicable chill, Tooya stopped his action. In contrary, he pulled himself away from Mashiro. The moment Tooya left, the place where he was just now was ravaged by many slashes. Swing the sword while it was stuck in the floor.....how someone could do something that absurd.

“That.....”

Tooya faced her. He was facing her directly without any intention. Even so, the urge of running away keep coming up in his chest.....he inhibited the urges with his calm mind. He knew that long ago, that he would be slashed the

moment he turned his back in this situation.

“Ma, Mashiro?”

Tooya asked.

“.....”

There was no emotion at all from her gaze. Was it because she couldn't hear it.....she was just pointing the edge of the sword towards here slowly.

“Tooya.....I am Kamisaki Tooya! Your senior!”

Tooya shouted. Yet his voice became another person's voice, the voice of a girl. Tooya had no memory of it, but Mashiro knew that voice very well. Tooya who was in waver had forgotten it, Tooya was just a normal schoolgirl from the others.

Want to kill.

Therefore, I only have to think of one thing. No need to mind, words or what.

Kill.

She swung the sword to the front directly. She did it in terrifying speed. It was impossible for a normal person to do it at all. Tooya couldn't do it too. Maybe it was because she was right in front of him, he lowered his guard and his reaction got slower in that moment.

“Ah.”

I will die, was what Tooya thought right now. A cut from the front directly. Since I could survive from a shot to my heart before because of my connection with Kuroe, then I guess I wouldn't die even if my head was split in two. Tooya thought so with self-deprecating. Please give me a break if possible.....there was still room to action.

Pang.

The moment Tooya moved his hands and a sound was made at the same time. A move that could caught even a mosquito, although what he caught right now was not an insect but a sword.

Catch a blade with bare hands. It was a famous countermeasure against real

sword with bare hands. Because it was too famous so Tooya could think of it easily, so Tooya's body took the action unconsciously.....and he caught the sword beautifully.

“Ku.....”

Yet Tooya's face distorted. Way too famous. Until now it was still very famous.....but what should I do after this. He had no idea on how to snatch that sword from her. Anyway, I will try to suppress her first.....although Tooya was being suppressed by her too. It was a very painful situation.

In terms of strength, Tooya should be the winner.....but his pose right now was too bad. His pose right now was the one that would be suppressed in the end in this kind of situation.

“Ku.....”

The sword moved downwards slowly. The blade was right in front of Tooya—he only felt terror from it. But in this situation where both were evenly matched, Tooya regained calm back to his mind to some extent.

“Kuroe!”

Tooya shouted. Things would be better if I called her right from the beginning, now only he thought of that. Even if Tooya played the role as a bait, there was no reason for him to get killed just to capture the culprit. Kuroe should appear by the time Mashiro appeared with the demon sword.....well, I guess Kuroe ignored it purposely even if she noticed, as for Akane, she would tell me to go die right away.

Anyway.

“This is an order, come and help me!”

“Understood.”

Kuroe replied.

Gachan

Kuroe appeared between them by entering through crushing the window glass. Mashiro jumped away in that moment. And so the sword left Tooya's hands.

“It’s finally my turn ne.”

“.....I have many things to tell you after this.”

However, I will leave the complaints later.

“This is an order, snatch that sword.”

If it was a demon sword, then everything would be over.

“Understood.”

Kuroe answered with a smile.

And she looked at Mashiro who was holding the sword horizontally. She was showing her leisurely attitude as usual.

“.....”

Mashiro who was standing at the opposite moved her eyes to Kuroe. Seems like she was estimating who should be the priority. Although the prey was still a prey, but there was a priority order.

Before this, Tooya which was the prey will be the highest priority.

But now—

Dash

Kuroe which could be a threat would be the highest priority. She moved forward at the same time as a sharp sound was made. That swinging speed was like disappearing all of a sudden from what the others see.

“Fumu.”

Kuroe punched out with her right hand.

Dong.

A blunt voice sounded. A strike that could easily pierce through the floor was blocked by Kuroe’s bare hand.

“A nostalgic feeling ne.”

Kuroe muttered like she was reminiscing something and clenched her right hand.

“But it’s a little pain ne.”

“!?”

Mashiro didn’t show out the impression of wavering. But from what Tooya saw, she was just the same as being wavered. Mashiro wanted to pull back the sword, yet the sword couldn’t move at all.

“It’s in my hand already oh.”

And so Kuroe took over the sword. Even though she didn’t seem like using a lot of strength, yet Mashiro was being threw up along with the sword. Kuroe tried to snatch the sword by waving Mashiro’s body in the air—Mashiro let go of the it because of centrifugal force, then her body flew towards the wall and hit on it.

“Kuroe!”

And so Mashiro fell on the floor and not moving at all.

“Can’t be help. I can’t snatch the sword if I don’t do this.”

Being forced to do so to complete the order, was the explanation Kuroe trying to give.

“But as what master saw, I had taken the sword.”

Kuroe rotated the sword in half circle and held the handle.

“.....Thanks for your hard work.”

Although there was still something Tooya couldn’t accept, but he just said that. Then he walked towards where Mashiro was. Although there was no obvious wound, but it was worrisome that she didn’t move at all after fell down. Tooya crouched down to peek on Mashiro.....

“Ah, master.”

A voice was heard from his back.

“What?”

Tooya turned his head.

“Better be careful.”

“.....?”

What do you mean, the moment Tooya wanted to ask that—the sound of flesh being cut was heard.

“Eh?”

The stunned Tooya looked at where that sound came from—a silver metal stretched out from his chest. The metal which was painted by blood have no difference from a sword no matter how you see it. Tooya tasted blood in his mouth. He moved his gaze, Kuroe was still holding the sword just now they snatched.....then what about this sword?



“Sorry ne, my advice was late.”

Kuroe sneered. Tooya couldn't understand all of this—the only that he could understand was that Kuroe was still the same as always.

“Fum.”

Mashiro twisted the sword, then Tooya spit out blood. He could feel that his conscious was getting more vague. He was feeling helpless and convinced at the same time. Tooya looked at Kuroe.

“Ku, roe.”

Tooya spoke like trying to squeeze out words.

“Stop, Ma, shiro.....an, order.....”

“Understood.”

After confirmed that Kuroe nodded, Tooya's consciousness disappeared into the darkness.



“Then, what should I do ne.”

Kuroe looked at Mashiro like she was planning something. Tooya maintained the condition of being stabbed, it seemed that Tooya's consciousness had disappeared completely. He was dead no matter how you see, yet Tooya would keep receiving vitality from Kuroe as long as their connection was still there, Kuroe knew this the most clearly.

“That means, this is no longer needed ne.”

Kuroe threw the sword in her hand behind. Seems like that sword was the same as the sword that was still impaled on Tooya.....in fact it was true. If have to say why, it was because those were the doppelgangers of that thing. Kuroe knew this clearly, as long as the true body was still there, it could create countless of these doppelgangers.

“.....”

Mashiro got no response at all. She should be thinking what to do in this situation.....well in the end, there was no need to think. No matter how she

thought, the conclusion would be killing all the witnesses.....it was this kind of existence.

“Stop, stop, stop.....ne.”

Kuroe was muttering happily.

“Master, how should I stop that thing ne. For example, it’s fine that I stop it right from the source?”

The person to answer was not here.....no.

Bang

A shot was heard. Kuroe's head shook a little. A behavior that was easier than words to convey the meaning of negative.

"I am just joking ne."

She answered to someone who could possibly hear it.

"I also don't want to get hated by master ne, so I have to understand his meaning."

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders and looked at Mashiro.

"As the order master given.....let me stop you."

Kuroe sneered.

In contrary, Mashiro responded very quickly. After pulling out the sword in Tooya's body, she jumped to shorten the distance between her and Kuroe and slashed on her. All of that happened in an instant, it was weird that Tooya couldn't dodge this at that time.

"Too slow."

Because it was Kuroe, so she could respond it with a smile. She used her right hand to catch the sword that was aiming for her head. Kuroe held the blade tightly when a blunt voice sounded.....the same scene happened again. But Mashiro who made the same mistake let go of the sword immediately and jumped backwards to get some distance.

"Fumu."

Kuroe let go of the sword in her hand. By the time a hard sound lingered around the corridor, a new sword appeared in Mashiro's hand already. Then she threw it. The sword left Mashiro's hand and act as a spear, flew towards Kuroe in a straight line.....Kuroe hit it away easily.

Dosu

A sword came out from Kuroe's belly. It was the sword that threw away by Kuroe just now. Didn't know when did that sword pierced through Kuroe's belly.

“Fumu.”

The sword that was hit away just now floated. Its tip pointed towards Kuroe. And behind there was Mashiro rushed towards here with a newly made sword.

“It’s a troublesome opponent to stop without killing it ne……it’s great that I can kill them without hesitation in the previous fights ne.”

Kuroe sighed. At the same time, the floating sword had pierced through Kuroe’s heart.

“It’s not just my power will increase if I show my true self……don’t die ne?”

Kuroe sneered. Mashiro threw two swords with both hands towards Kuroe to get rid of her. Kuroe just hit away the sword that was flying towards her face and let the other one stab on her.

“No matter what, I am still a monster with the nickname ‘Black Coat’ ne.”

In the darkness, that pair of golden eyes were flashing with lights.

“Darkness or what, all of them is my coat ne.”

The unseen darkness was moving.

“Get swallowed by my coat.”

In an instant, Mashiro was dyed black—no, she was in the darkness in the first place, it was just that ink color was getting thicker. Moonlight emerged from outside, but then it disappeared in the darkness like it never existed before.

“……!?”

Mashiro twisted her body to resist, yet she’d been surrounded by darkness completely, there was nowhere she can run even if she wanted to. Then, Mashiro was in the condition where she couldn’t move at all, like being suppressed by a force that was stronger than her own……she showed a distorted expression in the darkness because of pain.

“Uh, is it too tough?”

Kuroe loosen the binding a little. From that emotionless face to go so far as being distorted, it was possible that Kuroe overused her power.

“It’s so troublesome to adjust the power so it won’t kill.....I am not so good at micro-operation ne.”

Although Kuroe frowned which was very rare, but seems like this time she captured the target smoothly. Mashiro couldn’t move and didn’t seems like her life was in danger. Because her whole body immersed into the darkness other than her head, Kuroe walked towards her.

“Although I am not sure that did we met before or not, but from the sentiments that we came from the same place.....can you answer some of my questions?”

“.....”

“In my memory, the kind of you were actually eliminated until not a single one left at last time ne.....why there were still survivors ne? If you guys did survived then why awake at this timing ne? If you guys can be active as long as there’s host, then there should be countless chances until now for you to awaken right?”

“.....”

Mashiro didn’t answer. In the first place, it should be strange for them to answer based on what Kuroe remembered. Yet Kuroe asked another question.

“Could it be, the person that sealed you is a very powerful woman?”

“.....”

No answer. But, Kuroe felt that her jaw moved.....a little.

“Well forget it, just go into slumber.”

After saying that, even her head was also engulfed by the darkness.

“.....Um.”

The first thing that Tooya saw after regained consciousness and opened his eyes was the ceiling.

“Tsk.”

Then he heard a tongue clicking sound when trying to wake up.

He looked to where that sound came from, Akane was standing over there.

She was looking over here with an unpleasant expression.

“Here is.....”

A classroom where he had no memory of.....then Tooya looked at the surrounding suddenly. And so he found the target——Mashiro who was lying on the ground. Kuroe was standing beside her.

“Kuroe!”

“Don’t worry, she’s still alive. Not even a single wound. She’s just sleeping.”

Tooya was shocked from Kuroe’s reply. The order he’d given to Kuroe before he lost his consciousness was very vague. Although he did put on the restriction regarding whether to kill her or not in his order, but he’d worry that Kuroe would hurt Mashiro.

“Ah.”

He remembered when talking about wound. Tooya should be received a fatal injury. Then he looked at his chest, the shirt did have a hole, but he couldn’t see any wound on his body.

“If it’s about the wound then it’s blocked. The magician over there still had an expression showing that you’d better die off this way.”

Kuroe sneered. Then Akane looked over here and clicked her tongue.

“Moreover, the spell wore off.”

“.....Now you mention it.”

Tooya saw it just now, his body went back to how it was.

“Then, what actually happened?”

Tooya couldn’t understand at all. He himself acted as the bait to lure out the demon sword, then the problem should be solved after Kuroe snatched the sword.....but then he himself got stabbed. Even though the sword was still in Kuroe’s hand at that moment.

“What Mashiro owned, is just something called demon sword ne.”

“.....No, I know that.”

“It’s not that kind of demon sword.”

Kuroe denied what appeared in Tooya’s mind.

“Did you forget? I did said that what I know is different from what you know based on the information given by Tanaka.”

“Didn’t you say that it was a sword with special ability?”

“Did I say that?”

No. What Kuroe said that time had a different meaning.

“Then, what the hell is this thing?”

“A demon sword.”

Kuroe answered.

“To be precise, it should be sword of the demon.”

“Sword of.....the demon?”

Bang

A loud voice sounded. Tooya looked to where the voice came from to know what happened—the table beside Akane was disintegrated in one strike.

“That is.....”

“Nothing.....continue.”

Akane glared at Kuroe. Yet Kuroe was still looking at Tooya.....with a happy expression.

“Continue Kuroe, this is an order.”

Tooya forced to said so.

“Understood.”

Kuroe nodded.

“That means, it was a monster which has a form that was the same as a sword ne. It’s not man-made, but an existence which was called monster just like me.”

“Just like, Kuroe?”

“Yeah, it’s just a different kind. Monsters exist in many different kinds ne. My true appearance is a giant wolf monster. And that monster exist in the form of a sword.....if you want to ask what’s the same between us, then it will be the existence that brings harm to mankind. I am through eating humans, and that thing through cutting humans.”

“But, it’s a sword right?”

“That’s not its true body.”

Kuroe looked at Mashiro.

“Sword of the demon possess on human body ne. Its true body will assimilate into the host body and cut people using its doppelgangers. There’s no effect to the true body at all even if we snatched the doppelgangers.”

Tooya got closed with Mashiro with no precaution without knowing all of this, then got stabbed by her new made doppelganger.

“You know this right from the beginning?”

Things about what Mashiro owned is the sword of the demon.

“I wasn’t sure, right? Since it was a sword that has special ability and able to bewitch people, that kind of sword existed in my era too ne.....I am sure that it was a monster is when I was holding its doppelganger ne.”

“.....”

“You don’t believe me?”

Kuroe sneered.

“Then you just give me the order—speak out the truth.”

“.....It’s not necessary.”

Tooya shook his head.

“To me, you are necessary.”

Therefore he didn’t need to listen something that made him waver.

“I know you are this kind of person, since long time ago.”

“So strict ne.”

Kuroe shrugged her shoulders.

“Then, how could we remove the sword of the demon from Mashiro’s body?”

This was the problem at the moment. If snatching the doppelgangers didn’t work, then we had to do something on the true body that possessed in her body.

“There’s no way oh?”

Kuroe answered with another question.

“Eh.”

“That monster had assimilated with Mashiro at the moment she got possessed. I can’t do things like remove it from her body. The magicians from my era remove them by killing the people that got possessed by the sword of the demon.”

“How come.....”

Tooya looked at Mashiro. She was just sleeping normally right now, she had no different from a normal person.

“You can’t do it, even with your power?”

“No.”

Kuroe answered clearly.

“Although I am a powerful monster, but I am not all-powerful ne. Furthermore, my power is something specialized to kill people.....those spells I used was through imitation from the magicians in that era.”

She slightly peeked at Akane.

“I can’t do it.”

“.....Really?”

Tooya asked again.

“Really ne. Just give me an order if you don’t believe.”

“.....Is that so.”

Tooya sighed, he could only give up.

“Inaba-san.”

Tooya looked at her.

“Like what you heard, do you have any idea?”

“.....I got to make a confirmation first.”

Then Akane took out her phone and called to somebody. Since she said confirmation, she might be calling to the Order of Black Magic. After she explained everything, replying voices can be heard repeatedly.

After so long, the call had ended. After she kept her phone, Akane looked at Tooya with a bitter face.

“Just eat her, they said so.”

“Eh?”

Tooya couldn’t understand what she’s trying to say.

“It’s like what you heard. The price for the contract with that monster..... you haven’t paid for this month right?”

Tooya understood what she was saying. But he couldn’t understand the meaning of it. Then Akane looked at someone that stood behind Tooya with a confused expression.

“Very reasonable ne.”

Kuroe’s happy voice could be heard.

“Since we can’t separate the demon sword from her, then Mashiro would be a threat to mankind ne.....since she has to be killed anyway, we shouldn’t waste her life meaninglessly.”

“.....”

Akane didn’t answer. She bit her lips, but didn’t deny. This was not something unbelievable. Tanaka aimed at Tooya’s life without hesitation just to kill Kuroe. Yet he couldn’t do it, then he recruited the two of them as external collaborators.....and tolerated the sacrifice of sacrifice.

The Order of Black Magic was an organisation that seek rightfulness. Its objective was to protect the nation. They didn’t mind having sacrifice just to achieve it. Of course, the most ideal situation would be no sacrifice at all..... but they would abandon the minority without hesitation if the situation did not allow them to reach the ideal one.

Mashiro was the minority in this situation. An existence that can be abandoned easily. Since she was possessed by the demon sword, then she was the victim without doubt. Yet the current her would continue causing harm to mankind, so they abandon her without hesitation. So that no more victims would be produced.

Lastly, since it was a life that had to be abandoned, why didn’t sacrifice her as the payment to Kuroe.

“What is this, that kind of calculation.”

He lost his strength. His legs were losing strength. Tooya was kneeling on the ground already when he realised. Which side was the correct one, Tooya knew

this very clearly. Which side was the wrong one, Tooya knew that well too. And yet, his head was shaking and not wanting to stop.

“So, what should we do?”

Akane’s voice, along with her question conveyed clearly into Tooya’s ears.

“Master?”

As for the another voice, sounds very pleasant and happy.

“I.....”

Wasn’t the answer was decided since long time ago. No matter how he thought, there was no another answer. What can he do so he could get a different answer.....if someone could think of it, then that must be a crazy person.

Let Kuroe eat Mashiro?

How could I do something that only a bastard would.

“Of course, I can’t kill Mashiro.”

“I see.”

Akane answered, then she closed her eyes. When she opened her eyes again, a handgun was in her hand and pointed at Mashiro.

“What are you doing.....”

“As you can see. I will kill her.....since you don’t allow that monster to eat her then I have to do it.”

Tooya stopped breathing. He couldn’t understand.

“Why.....you have to.”

“There’s no need to ask why. If you can’t separate the demon sword from Kuromine Mashiro then she must die. If we let her alive then she will kill more people. If sacrificing a girl that assimilated with the demon sword can solve the problem, then the Order of Black Magic will do so, that’s all.”

“Very reasonable ne.”

Yeah. Very reasonable.....maybe the Order of Black Magic thought this

would be the best. But Tooya couldn't agree with them.

"This is wrong!"

"No."

Akane shook her head.

"This is the right way."

She pulled down the trigger.

A gunfire sounded, bullet was shot.....but Mashiro was fine.

".....you brat, what do you want?"

Akane asked. Smoke appeared from the muzzle.

"I won't let you, kill Mashiro."

Even if his right shoulder was bleeding, Tooya answered that way.....behind him was Mashiro who was still sleeping soundly.



“Don’t speak nonsense, brat.”

She adjusted the direction of the muzzle. Now it was pointing between Tooya’s eyebrows.

“Do you think that you won’t get killed? If you tried to hinder us, then its my duty to get rid of you too. It’s better to say that I will be more happy for able to find an excuse to kill you.”

“Can you kill him?”

Kuroe interrupted.

“Master’s life is connected with mine ne.....if you want to kill master, then you must have enough power to kill me first oh?”

“I know.”

Akane answered and moved towards Tooya at the same time. The distance between them disappeared instantly, then Tooya’s belly crumbled. His body got hit and flew up.

[Urgh.]

Gastric juice flowed upwards.

“But this brat is too weak.”

Akane pointed her gun to Tooya that curled up on the ground once again.

“Compared to you, this brat is much more easier to kill.”

“True ne.”

Kuroe was very strong. She was a monster. Even if Tooya’s physical ability got enhanced by her, he was just a human. He got no experience regarding a fight or what. That means, it was possible to whittle down Kuroe’s vitality easily by aiming Tooya.

“But there were conditions for it right?”

“That’s right.”

Kuroe couldn’t take action, this was the necessary condition. It was idiotic to not use Kuroe when she was a strong killer.

“Don’t.....take, action.”

Although he looked painful, but Tooya said so in struggle.

“Kuroe, don’t take action.....this, is an order.”

“Got it ne.”

Kuroe nodded with a pleasant smile.

“.....Huhh.”

Akane exhaled.

Bang

She shot.

“Ku!”

His right leg got shot, Tooya looked very bad right now.

“What do you want brat, want to be protagonist?”

Akane looked at Tooya with very cold eyes.

“Want to be a protagonist that save the tragic heroines? It’s obvious that you are just a murderer that allows that monster to eat human as you like.....do you think you will be forgiven after you save them?”

Akane said so, then she pulled the trigger again. This time his left shoulder got a hole.

“Tragic.....”

Tooya didn’t mind the wounds on his body and continue saying.

“Tragic heroines. If you said so.....then they should be saved. Mashiro knows nothing at all. Since she’s just a victim that got possessed, wasn’t she’s supposed to be saved!”

“If there’s any way to save her, I will do it. But now there’s none.....and she’s responsible for this too. Although the first person was just unlucky, but the other were dead because of the effect from Mashiro for sure.”

“That kind of thing!”

Tooya shouted.

“It’s impossible for her to not hate them! Of course she wants to kill them! No matter who would also thought that way.....but just because of the thoughts she’s related to their dead, no one would think that way!”

There wouldn’t be a lot of people thought that Mashiro were responsible for this if they knew what happened.

“Mashiro knows nothing.....then she should be saved.”

“Therefore, just kill her over here is also a mercy.”

“That’s not right!”

Tooya shouted, Akane clicked her tongue.

“You annoying brat, please realize this reality. If not then tell me how to settle this.”

“No.”

Tooya said so.

“The person to find the solution.....was not me.”

“Ah?”

Akane look surprised.

“As you said,I am just a murderer.”

It was a truth that couldn’t be changed, Tooya himself admitted it too.

“Therefore, I can’t become the protagonist that saves the heroines. A worst person will only be the worst no matter what he did.....that’s why, you should be the one to save her.”

“What?”

“You said it right from beginning.....wasn’t you are the ally of justice?”

Tooya got close to her and shouted.

“That’s why, don’t say things like abandon the minority for the sake of the majority! You know that this girl was innocent wasn’t it! If you are the ally of justice then show me how you save all of them! If you can’t do it then you were just like me, a murderer!”

“Ku!”

Akane clicked her tongue.

“Can’t do it means can’t do it! That girl must die!”

Akane shouted with confidence. No basis, it was just an abominable confidence that couldn’t be wavered. Tooya felt it from what Kuroe said before.....that was why, he determined that based on the suspicious words said by that monster who he do not believe at all.

“Don’t give up!”

Tooya said it like he was crushing everything.

“Inaba Akane! Wasn’t you the ally of justice? If you are then break that confidence! Show me how you call out miracles!”

“Ku.....shut up!”

Akane hit Tooya’s head with the gun grip to release her frustration. Tooya fell on the ground due to his vital got hit severely.....and didn’t move at all.

“.....Damn.”

The person that should reply got no response at all, seems like he was at somewhere words couldn’t reach. He deserved it as he was the one caused all of these, yet irritation came out from her chest.

“So, what will you do ne?”

Kuroe asked Akane who was in agony.

“My master that was stopping was no longer here oh? If you want to kill, then now’s the time ne.”

“.....”

Akane looked at Mashiro. Now Mashiro was just an innocent girl that was sleeping soundly.....yet it was a disaster that would bring scourge to mankind. Then she looked at Tooya. He was Akane’s taboo, a nasty murderer. The worst kind of person.

“Damn it.”

A word leaked out from her mouth. It leaked out naturally. Can’t be helped that she was feeling irritated. What Akane thought should be the correct one, there should be no other way.....but she felt that she got an idea. Yet the person changed this was none other than him.

“Damn it, damn it, damn it.....to say such arrogant words for a mere murderer. I will do it okay, I will do it! I will show you how I save her! I am the ally of justice, damn brat—!”

Akane kept shouting to release her anger, and she took out her phone. Then

she called someone by pressing the phone numbers like she was going to dismantle it.

“It’s me.....take that sword over here right now. Ah? That sword means that sword! Ah? How I use it? That is my thing right from the start! How I use it is my freedom! If you understand then take it to me right now!”

After finishing the forceful command like she was going to crush the counterpart, Akane hung up her phone.

After 20 minutes, an extra sword appeared in Akane’s hand. It was an old sword, but it had a different aura compared to the demon sword over there. It was the sword that Akane brought during her first encounter with Tooya and Kuroe.

“Such a nostalgic sword ne.”

Kuroe muttered while looking at it.

“I had fought countless rounds with the magician that owned this sword ne.”

“You still survived until now huh.”

“Unfortunately I am very strong.”

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue.

“That sword was called monster-eater ne. That kind of thing can remain until this era ne.”

“Because it was preserved carefully back in my home.”

“It’s unfortunate to your parents as you took it away ne.”

“Items are meant to use. Better than putting it aside and covered with dust.”

Akane unsheathed the sword from its scabbard. The blade sparkled under the shine of moonlight. There was no rust on that blade at all, it was just the tip of the blade turned black.

“It’s a sword that used on human and able to absorb the evil things into the blade.If it’s this, then it’s possible to remove the monster that possessed in that girl.”

Yet, Kuroe continued her words.

“Although most likely she will die ne.”

“.....”

Silent means it was certain.

“In the end, it’s an item that made to fight against monsters like me. It does able to weaken the target’s power, until the target was eliminated as the final objective.....it’s not something used to save people. In order to exert the effect, you have to cut the target.....but if you do so the target will die. You can just cut slightly to remove something that was on the surface, but it’s deep inside for Mashiro’s situation ne.....if you want to remove it then you have to cut to the extent where you will kill her no matter how you think.”

“That’s right.”

Then Mashiro would die without doubt. It was meaningless even they were able to remove the monster. In the end, Mashiro would still be killed.

“And that sword has limit on the number of times it use ne. The number of evil things that the blade was able to absorb was fixed. If wasted it to help someone, the blade will be damaged when you use it again after the effect weakened.”

That was why, Akane intended to kill Mashiro. It was not worth to waste the trump card on a bet that most likely would lose.

“You want to do it even if you know that?”

“Shut up.”

Akane answered.

“I intend to do it because I felt that I can do it.”

“Wasn’t better if you do this right from the beginning?”

“Tsk.”

Akane clicked her tongue.

“.....I will start now.”

Akane stood between Mashiro who was lying on the ground and held the sword with hands in reverse position.

“You better don’t die.....keep your breath even if you die.”

Although Akane said it rudely, but it sounds more like a prayer.

“No, she will die anyway.”

As for Kuroe, she was sitting quietly at a side.

“You want to be a hindrance?”

“It’s the opposite.”

Kuroe sneered.

“Although I can’t remove the demon sword that possessed in Mashiro.....but I still can support her vitality so that she won’t get killed from a stab.”

“What are you thinking?”

“Nothing, it’s just since master worked so hard until here. I just want to give a little help as his servant.”

Her expression was still the same as always, couldn’t be trusted at all.

Yet, what she did was real. Akane knew that.

“I won’t say thanks.”

“No problem. I will get a lot of that from master after this ne.”

Then, the two of them completed it.

Epilogue: Ordinary days with the man-eater + The Ally of Justice

“But seriously, it’s a shock that I was at the hospital when I woke up this morning!”

Mashiro looked very happy. Instead of being uneasy on what happened, it’s more she’s surprised on what happened and felt enjoyment. Although she was wearing patient clothes and sleeping on the bed, she didn’t looks like a patient at all.

“Tooya-senpai and Kuroe-senpai found me right?”

“Ah, yeah.”

Tooya nodded vaguely. After Tooya woke up, Kuroe told him that it was over. He looked at Akane but she replied him with a very unpleasant gaze. Then he heard a rough explanation on what happened from Kuroe, and the officers from the Order of Black Magic took Mashiro under the basis of a necessary examination.

Then they contacted the two of them and let them came here to visit Mashiro.

“But why did I collapse ne. The doctor said that my body didn’t have any abnormality at all.”

“I think it’s because of anemia or something like that.”

“Is that so. The doctor said so too.”

There was nothing abnormal in her body based on the result after the examination. Mashiro got no any problem already. The Order of Black Magic had decided that it was not necessary to tell Mashiro anything since there was no any problem.

“I will be discharged tomorrow ne, we can spend our lunch break at school together again.”

“Yeah.”

Mashiro’s problem was not settled completely. What happened to Mashiro didn’t end yet. They were not sure whether the bully would continue or not, but at least the situation where she got isolated in the class would not change immediately.

“Then, see you at school.”

“Yeah.”

Mashiro sent him with a smile, and so Tooya left the ward.

“Akane-san.....!?”

Akane was there after he left the ward. She glared at them with her usual unpleasant expression. Because they were in the hospital, so she was not holding any weapon right now.

“This is the afterwards report.”

Akane said so to start a topic.

“You two had completed the request given, is what the Order of Black Magic determined. The reward will be paid after two days. All the necessary files will be sent after finished writing.”

“Reward.....”

There’s something like that huh, Tooya muttered while thinking about it.

“Of course there is. Who will work if there’s no earning.”

“Certainly.”

Tooya didn’t think the reward was appropriate for them. Tooya thought they would leave out the crimes that Tooya had committed and was going to commit as the reward for the collaboration. Tanaka didn’t explain on this point, did he forget it or purposely did so.....no, probably it was written in the contract. Because Tooya didn’t finish reading it, so naturally he missed out that part.

[Wasn’t better to accept things they gave out of will.]

Kuroe muttered with telepathy.

[It's better to have more money. Since it's a request that we risk our lives, so the Order of Black Magic gave a reward this much.....if we have that, then we can go for a hot spring trip ne. It's almost school holidays so just in time, so nice ne.]

Don't decide other people's holiday on your own, even if he thought so, Tooya felt that he got no reason to reject her idea. Since it was a reward for the request, the Order of Black Magic should be paying a reasonable amount of money.

"I understood."

Tooya nodded.

"Ne, did you come here just to tell us this?"

"No, that was just incidentally."

Akane answered and looked at the two of them.

"I came here for a declaration."

".....Declaration?"

"Yeah."

Akane nodded and smiled, that was a very ferocious smile.

"This way, you guys had official became the partners to the Order of Black Magic.....but, not to me."

"Ha?"

"I am the ally of justice. So I can't tolerate existence like you two."

"That is your declaration?"

Kuroe asked with a happy expression.

"Yeah, I will kill you two some day."

Akane declared.

"Even though there's no way to do so for now, but I will show you two how I overturn this situation.....better don't forget this."

"Fufu, what should I do if I forgot it ne."

“It’s fine even if you forgot.....you are going to be killed anyway.”

Then, Akane looked at Tooya.

“You’d better don’t forget it.”

She glared at him.

“.....I won’t forget.”

Tooya replied her gaze and answered.

“I absolutely can’t die for the sake of my own expectation.....therefore, you are my enemy.”

Akane left this place after she heard Tooya’s answer.

“It’s all over ne.”

“What you mean.”

“We completed the request given, and Mashiro survived just as what master hoped for. Then we can go back to the ordinary lives that master hoped for if we rely on the Order of Black Magic and behave properly.”

“.....Yeah.”

Tooya nodded and exhaled.

“But, can we really do it.”

“Why?”

“The Order of Black Magic.”

Tooya said it briefly.

“They abandoned Mashiro that easily before this. Can we really trust them?”

“I guess we can.”

Kuroe nodded easily.

“As long as we move under the permission of the Order of Black Magic.”

“.....I guess so.”

Tooya answered with irritation.

“By the way ne?”

“What.”

“Why master worked so hard until that far ne?”

“What do you mean?”

“Didn’t you risk your life to stop Akane from killing Mashiro?”

“Ah you are saying that, naturally I will do it.”

To Tooya, Mashiro was a not person that was supposed to die.

“No, don’t you think you are a bit too over? Although you and her had many encounters that caused sympathetic response, but you knew her not really that long wasn’t it?”

“Maybe what you said was not wrong.”

Tooya nodded frankly.

“Probably, partly because I noticed her feeling was wrong.”

“Hm?”

“That person.....Akane-san can’t tolerate things like abandon Mashiro in this case, was what I thought.”

That was why, he stopped her with all his might.

“I knew I am the worst like she said. I kill people and continued the contract with you for the sake of my selfish expectation.....of course I am the worst for doing these kind of things. There’s no way this kind of person is not the worst.”

But Tooya didn’t receive punishment. Of course police couldn’t punish him, even the only organisation which could do so which was the Order of Black Magic accepted him in the form of external collaborator.

“Do master want to get punished?”

“No.”

Tooya shook his head. He knew that he had to receive the punishment..... yet he knew that he couldn’t receive it at the same time. If he did, then his expectation cannot be realized.

“You see, I am the worst.”

He was aware that he should be punished, yet he didn't intend to accept it.

“However, I felt waver recently. Because I am the worst kind of person that should be punished.....yet no one can do it. Like what Kuroe said, the Order of Black Magic will tolerate my existence as long as we don't take too much action.....but it's weird from them to even tolerate my existence.”

“Although you seek help from that person?”

“I am the worst kind person. It's obvious that I am the worst.”

Tooya mumbled, like he didn't listen to what Kuroe said.

“That's why, that person have to be the ally of justice. Because she affirmed the worst kind of person as the worst easily.”

“Hm, certainly master is the worst ne.”

Kuroe sneered.

“So master pushed Inaba Akane to the position of the ally of justice for the sake of your own convenience?”

“Yeah.”

“The ally of justice is a great existence ne. She has to do it even if she knows it will fail for sure.....there's no way she can keep success like this time ne.”

Therefore Mashiro's case could be considered a miracle. The ally of justice was determined through a scold from the worst kind of person and the help from the worst kind of monster.....it was impossible for this kind of miracle to happen every time.

“If she still wants to call herself the ally of justice after all these happened, then she must continue the responsibility ne. She must believe in miracle and save the others even if she knows that it's impossible. Because of this, a crack will emerge in her heart sooner or later.....master forced such a difficult duty to her ne.”

“.....”

“The Order of Black Magic is not a organisation of justice like what master

said. It will be easier if she could be influenced by the organisation and give up.”

“Perhaps.”

Although she belonged to the organisation, but she was not one of them.....
that must be very lonely.

“However, I hope that person can become the ally of justice.”

So that Tooya could be aware he wa the worst.

“You are so selfish ne.”

“Ah ah.”

“And the worst ne.”

“Ah ah.”

Tooya nodded.

“Seriously, master is the worst.”

Kuroe smiled.

“But master.”

Kuroe spoke all of a sudden.

“What.”

“I am fine that she joined us, but can you promise me one thing?”

“.....What.”

Kuroe smiled to Tooya’s reply.

“You can’t change your love?”

“Regardless the possibility between me and her.....what you said doesn’t
makes sense at all.”

“Hm.”

Kuroe pouted.

“Master is still a tsundere as always ne.”

“.....How long are you going to use that word.”

“Until when master becomes dere.”

“That won’t happen in my whole life.”

“Fufu, tsundere ne.”

“Is that a magic incantation that can purify all the poison?”

Although Tooya looked annoyed, but he felt happy at the same time. The two of them walked together.



The worst human

And the worst monster

The master and the servant walked together.



“Inaba-san.....”

Tanaka looked at Akane that keep entering people’s room as she wish tiredly.

“What.”

Akane laid on the sofa with an indecent pose and looked at him.

“You understand even if I don’t say it right?”

Tanaka spoke with a tone like talking to a child.

“No.”

But it got no effect at all.

“.....You want me to be troubled till how far that you would stop.”

Tanaka sighed.

“You are the one keeps want to think it is a trouble.”

“What excuse you got for using that sword as you wished?”

Tanaka looked at her directly.

“That is my item anyway. Is there any wrong for me to use it.”

“It belongs to the Order of Black Magic and not yours already at the time you gifted it to the organisation.”

“Who knows.”

She stopped the topic.

“.....Inaba-san.”

Tanaka held up his head and continued talking to Akane.

“It’s almost like you fooled me when I gifted it to the organisation.”

“Because you will use that sword without considering what will happen for

sure.....do you know how precious that sword is in this era.”

“An item that can’t use is just a garbage.”

“.....”

“It’s great that we can save a person by using it.”

“[I can’t deny that.”

But he didn’t accept too.....Akane got irritated by his behavior.

“Ah—I know already! I won’t use it without permission again! Is that fine!”

“Although I am really grateful if you can do that.....”

Tanaka said so.

“What’s with that expression in your eyes.”

“It’s hard for me to believe.”

Of course he is.

“No problem.....the main thing is we found a substitute for it, so forget about me using it without permission.”

“I don’t think we can find it that easily.”

“There’s still one almost the same as this in my house. I will go there and borrow it again.”

Tanaka asked regarding what Akane said.

“Wasn’t you ran away from home already?”

“Of course I will go get it without asking.”

She said it for granted.

“.....Pity your parents.”

“Who knows.”

Akane said it like she didn’t care at all.

“Ah—by the way, how much did you know about this case?”

Akane asked to change the topic.

“What you mean?”

“Regarding the demon sword. If you don’t speak out everything then you will be in bad luck like that girl.”

“Ahhaha, will I survive?”

“Probably.”

If miracle happens.

“I will answer seriously.....I didn’t have that much information regarding the sword.”

“Really?”

“Yeah, what I know is that sword came from the same era that Kuroe-san got sealed, and it’s a well-preserved old sword. That’s all I know. Since it’s very rare for spirit sword or demon sword from that era remain until now.....just like you, I don’t have that much information too.”

“The reason why you chose Kuromine Mashiro was?”

“After the investigation, we found that Kuromine Mashiro has what we called the constitution as the spirit medium.”

“I see.”

Spirit medium—In other words a constitution that could be possessed by spirits easily, naturally it’s more likely to become the target for the monsters to possess.

“That’s the only reason why I chose her during that time.”

“And the reason why the monster awakened?”

“A coincidence I guess.”

“.....”

“Please don’t glare at me.”

Tanaka smiled bitterly.

“I don’t know the reason too.....instead of thinking that the sword awakened because of Kuromine Mashiro, it should be that she was there just in the time

when the sword awakens.”

“Why you said so?”

“That sword was in the museum for decades already. There’s not only she was the spirit medium that visited the museum in that period right?”

“Certainly.”

If spirit medium was the condition, then that monster had awakened long time ago.

“If it’s that then why that monster awakened?”

“I don’t know about that too.”

But Tanaka continued.

“After Oogami Kuroe who is a powerful monster awakened, then the demon sword awakened.....do you think this was a coincidence?”

“Is there any relation?”

“Well, is there or not.”

“.....If you know then say it.”

“It’s a secret.”

Tanaka smiled.

“.....”

“If I say it without any solid prove, then you will lost control again.”

“Do you think I will accept what you said?”

“I will tell you when the time comes.”

Tanaka took out files from his table to end the topic.

“What are those.”

“List.”

“List?”

“Yeah.”

Tanaka nodded.

“Alternate sacrifice to Kuroe-san.....since she didn’t eat Mashiro-san, that means she hasn’t been paid for this month yet.”

“.....”

Akane didn’t say anything, after that she opened her mouth while glaring at Tanaka.

“You, what you going to do if that thing ate Mashiro?”

“I will be troubled.”

Tanaka stunned and answered.

“If he allowed Kuroe-san to eat Kuromine Mashiro, that means he crossed that line.....then I will be troubled. Since our relationship was built under the condition where he have to maintain his general sense of sensibility.”

“.....”

Akane became silent again,then she exhaled.

“You damn bastard.”

“It’s not bad anyway. Since I am quite matched with their personality.”

Tanaka smiled frankly.



Mashiro was lying on a bed in the ward. There was no one in the room. Only her alone, looking at the the ceiling.

She couldn’t remember what happened yesterday at all.

Only happy memories recently.

However, why did she get the feeling that she smell blood sometimes.

Mashiro thought that must be her own illusion.

But, it didn’t feel like illusion at all.

Sometimes she saw herself holding a sword.

That must be an illusion as well.

Because it was just illusion, so she just went to sleep.

But sometimes, she felt that she had to think about it deeply.

“It’s so horrible, ne.”

That must be a very horrible thing, although she didn’t know why.

Therefore

Mashiro closed her eyes to forget everything.

End of Volume 2

Credits

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